A Writers Indispensible Companion

NUTS & BOLTS

200 Days of Ideas and Inspiration

compiled by
Mike Jager

This SPECIAL EDITION of Nuts and Bolts is provided (**exclusively**) to the teachers, staff, and students at the Children's Farm Home in Corvallis, Oregon.

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This book is dedicated to Dr. Wilkins O'Riley Zinn, a (former) Professor of Education at Southern Oregon University, an accomplished artist and friend. Zinn and I shared stories and strategies at teacher workshops as the Academia Nuts until her untimely death. I present this edition in her honor.

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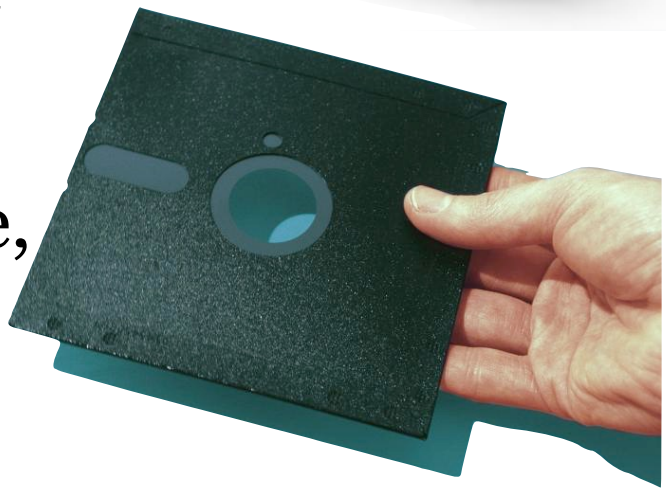
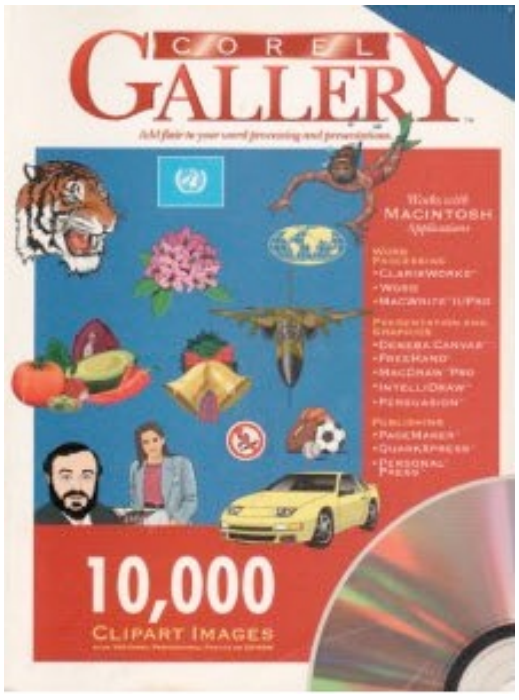
These tools were used in constructiing the original **Nuts and Bolts.** It was written on a Apple IIc - that featured 128 kb of RAM memory. **Print Shop** users would load a series of 5 inch floppy disks and store media on a stack of 3.5 inch 'hard' disks. This **Clip Art Gallery** offered 10,000, copy right free, (mostly) black and white images that were relevant to and reflective of the context of their time. In reproducing **Nuts and Bolt**s the author used as many original images as possible. Remaining images were gleaned from vintage clip art (Creative Commons) collections available on-line. Black and white images are favored to save color printing charges. Finally, it is suggested that users consider writing (old fashioned style) on / in a paper notebook, diary or journal.





Benefits

Research tells us there is value in daily journaling.

Nuts and Bolts promotes the habit of daily - reflective writing by mixing topics - some of which are light, fun, and emotionally neutral while others ask us to take personal inventory of our feelings, beliefs, and behaviors. Journal prompts are designed to promote creative writing, self-reflection, and to offer the prospect of low-risk and supporting sharing.

Here are some possible benefits to be derived from the practice of journaling, of sharing, and belonging in and to safe and trusted community.

Introspection / Self-discovery – lives can be so busy that we rarely pay attention to (and act) on its elements and challenges. Journaling allows us to set aside time and energy to look inward, to examine and declare our values and priorities.

Release – life's burdens can become heavy wieghts that hold us down. Journaling allows us to get things off our chest, to feel lighter and be freed from the troublsome spiral of distress and constant worry.

Openness to sharing - Once our thoughts and opinions are aired out - they become easier to share with others.

Listening – Whether we are listening to or reading someone's story we engage our attention fully to their experience. Knowing that you are being heard can be a vital element of open communication.

Empathy – When we learn that we are not the only person feeling a certain way, or that someone else has 'been down that road' we are able to develop empathy for others and ourselves.

Healing – Expressive writing is emotionally, physically and psychologically healing according to Dr. James Pennebaker who wrote **Writing to Heal**. "Stress often comes from emotional blockages and over thinking hypotheticals."

Inspiration – When we share our story we often find allies who can willingly provide us with thoughtful insights, understanding, and support.

Problem solving – Writing allows us to examine our feelings and situations, to consider options, to weigh consequences, and to bounce ideas off others who may have had similar experiences. It allows us to figure our stuff out, express an opinion, and (possibly) take a stand.

Nuts and Bolts isn't just one book -- its several, a compendium of little-known quotations, astonishing facts, vocabulary words and journal prompts, each organized around a central theme. Keep it handy - write daily or whenever the muse strikes.

WRITERS TIP: On the pages that follow you will find a text field like the one above. It provides you with space to respond to journal prompts that appear on each page. However, you can also write about anything that comes to your heart or mind. You might be encouraged to share your insights with your teacher, classmates or in a discussion group. Let's begin.

MOZART NEVER WENT TO SCHOOL.

"It is sobering to consider that when Mozart was my age he had already been dead for a year."

- - Tom Lehrer

prodigy (n.)
a child with exceptional talent

Let's suppose that you are a prodigy with some special talent or power. Tell the story of your remarkable life.

"Alas, all things come to light for those who wait." - - James G. Huneke

The Tokyo zoo is closed for two months a year to give the animals a rest from visitors.

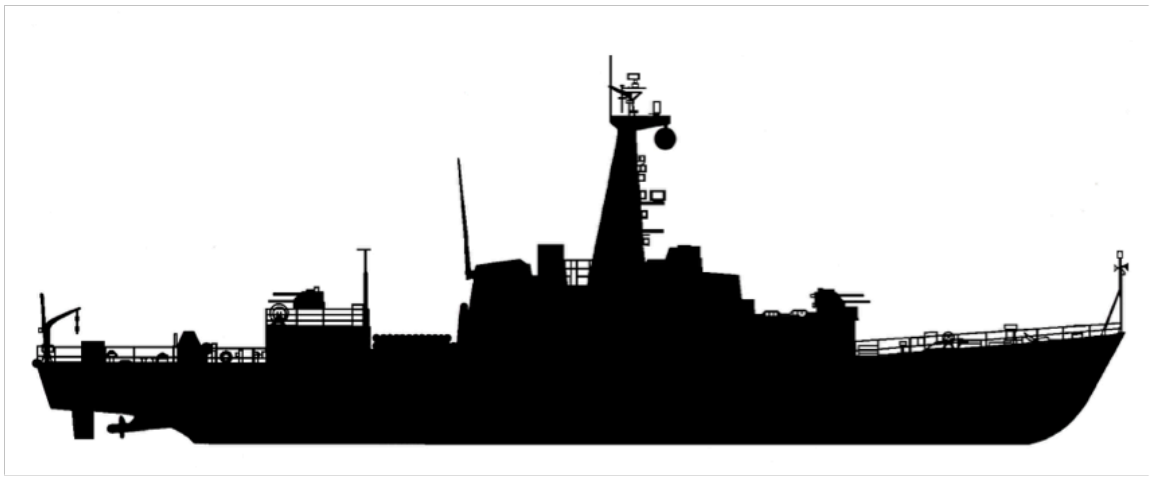
Respite (n.)
rest, recess,
break,
reprieve

Is there anything you need a break from? Tell about it.

During World War I French combat aviators were required to carry a bag of bricks on each flight - - to throw into the propellers of German airplanes.

"That idea using bombs dropped from airplanes to sink battleships is so damn nonsensical and impossible that I am willing to stand on the bridge of a battleship while that nitwit tries to hit it from air."

- - Newton B. Baker, US Secretary of War, 1921.



Can you think of - share any other completely innacurate predictions that failed to live up to their intent? Explain.

fiasco (n.) a flop or a complete failure (usually refers to an event)

"It is better to be a coward for a minute than dead for the rest of your life." - - Irish Proverb

On answering a little boy who asked him how he became a war hero, President Kennedy replied: "It was absolutely involuntary; they sank my boat."

VALOR (N.) COURAGE, BRAVERY, BOLDNESS

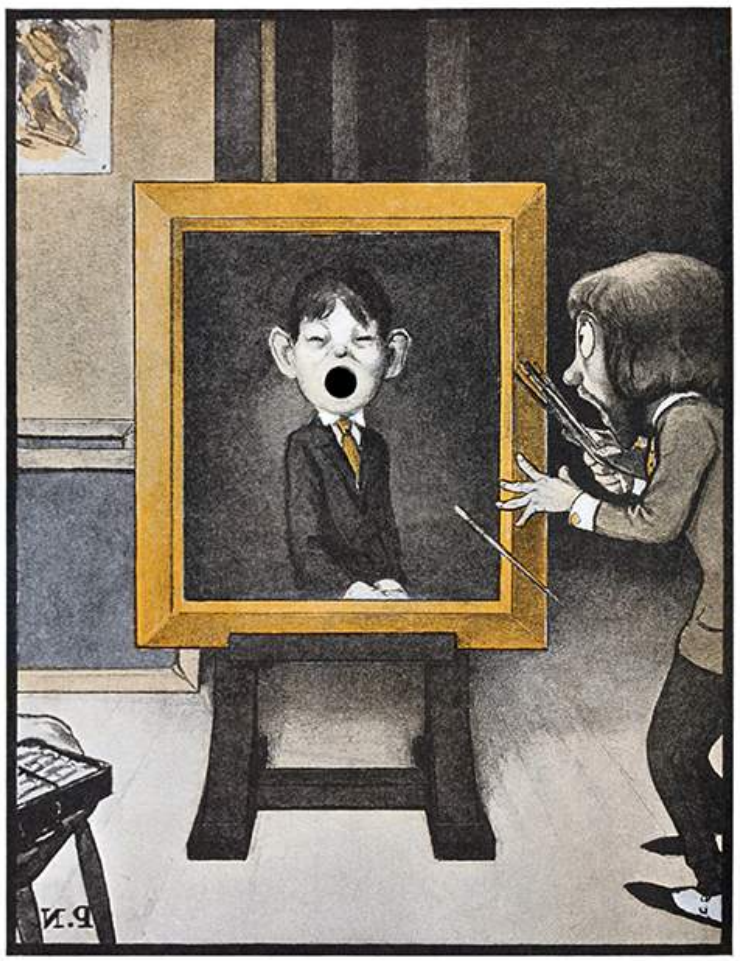
Has courage ever allowed you (or someone you know) do something powerful and remarkable? Tell about it.

"The face of a child says it all, especially the mouth of that child." - - John Candy

Scientists have proven that children make enough noise to harm a listener's health.

acoustiphobia
(n.) fear
of noise

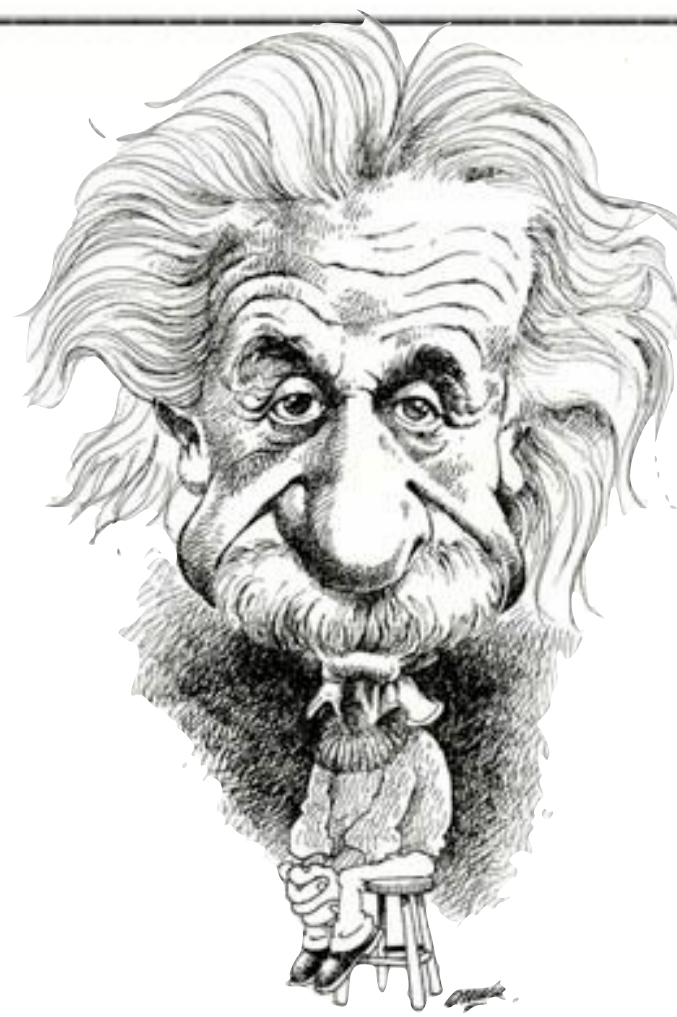
What sound
or sounds
drive you nuts?
Tell why.



"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." - - Albert Einstein

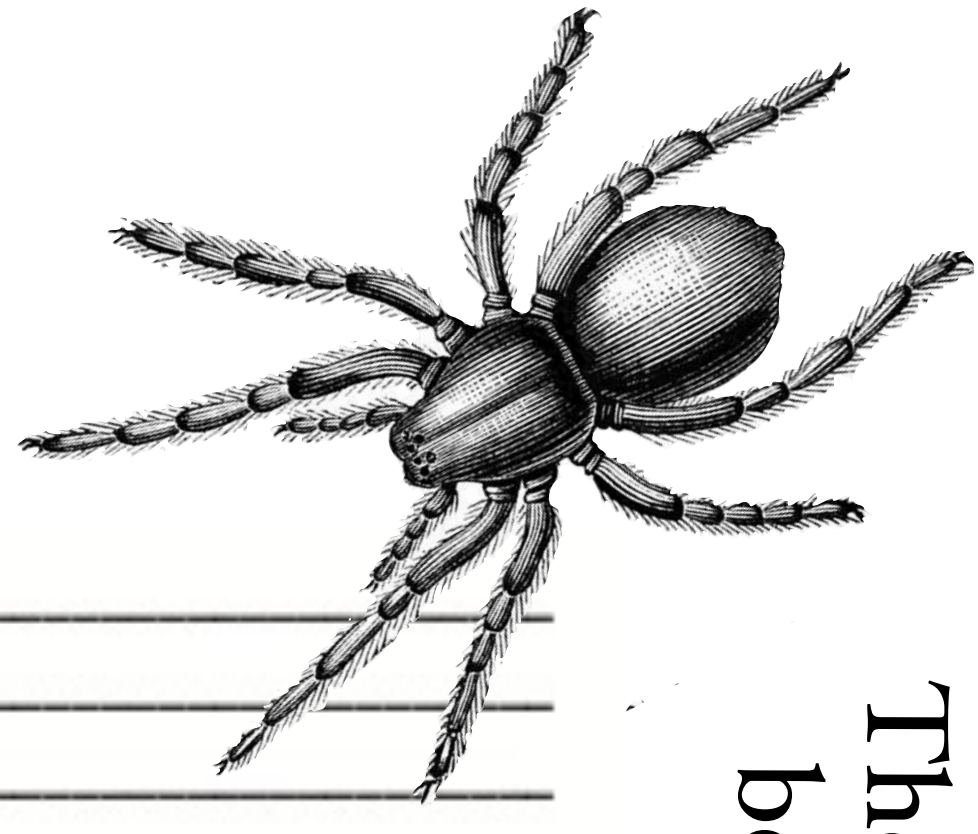
In colonial Boston schools teachers earned about seven cents a day.

pedagogue
(n.) a person who instructs, a teacher with exceptional talent



Write a help wanted ad for the perfect teacher.

"We are what we pretend to be."
- - Kurt Vonnegut Jr.



The average acre grassy field may be home to 1.25 million spiders.

incognito (adj.)hidden,unknown, generally refers to changing your identity to go about unknown

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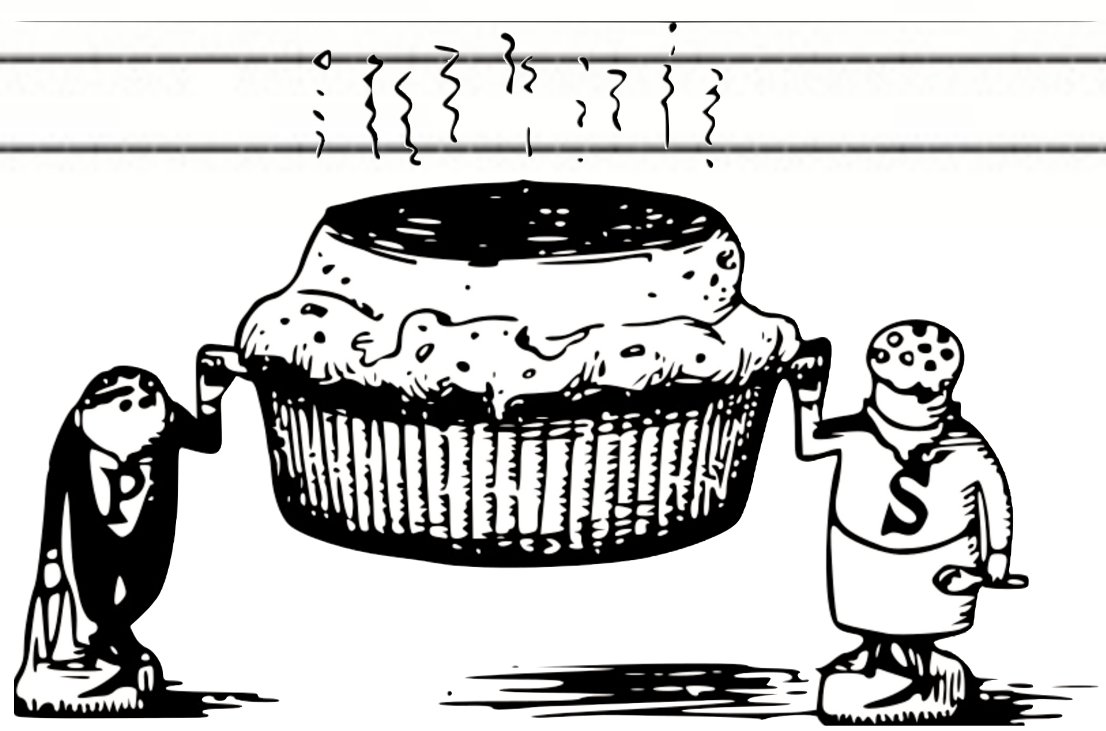
What kinds of things do you think people feel they must keep hidden from each other? Why?

President Eisenhower's favorite dish was prune whip, President Garfield's was squirrel soup. President John Quincy Adams favorite food was codfish pie.

"No person can be a patriot on an empty stomach."
- - William C. Brann



opsomania (n.)
craving for a particular food

Choose one food that you crave most and describe it lovingly.

When Children's Books magazine reviewed Lewis Carroll's ***Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*** in 1865, they said: "We fancy that any real child might be more puzzled then enchanted by the stiff, overwrought story."

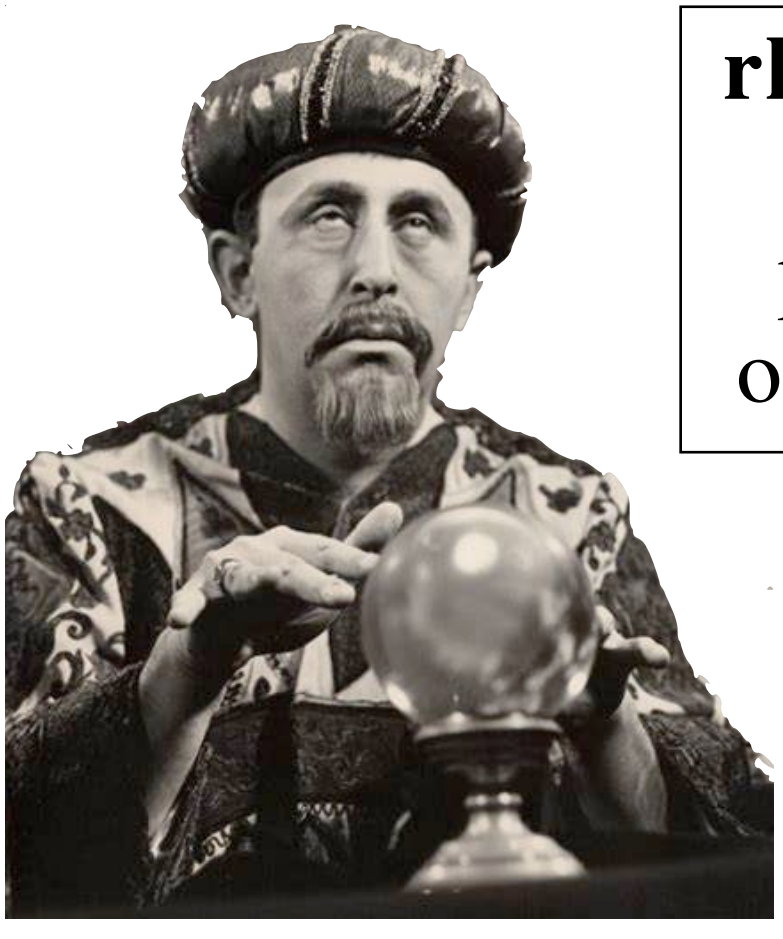
"Before I married I had three theories about raising children. Now I have three children and no theories." - - John Wilmot

bemused (adv.)
perplexed,
bewildered,
confused,
mixed-up

Give three bits of expert advice to parents.

The Rhyme, 'Ring around the Rosie', refers to the Black Plague that began in 1665, in which rash like sores appeared on victims. It was thought that strewing sweet smelling herbs (in streets) would prevent its spread.

"I've written some poetry that
I don't understand myself."
-- Carl Sandburg



rhopsodomancy (n.)
Fortunetelling by picking a passage of poetry at random

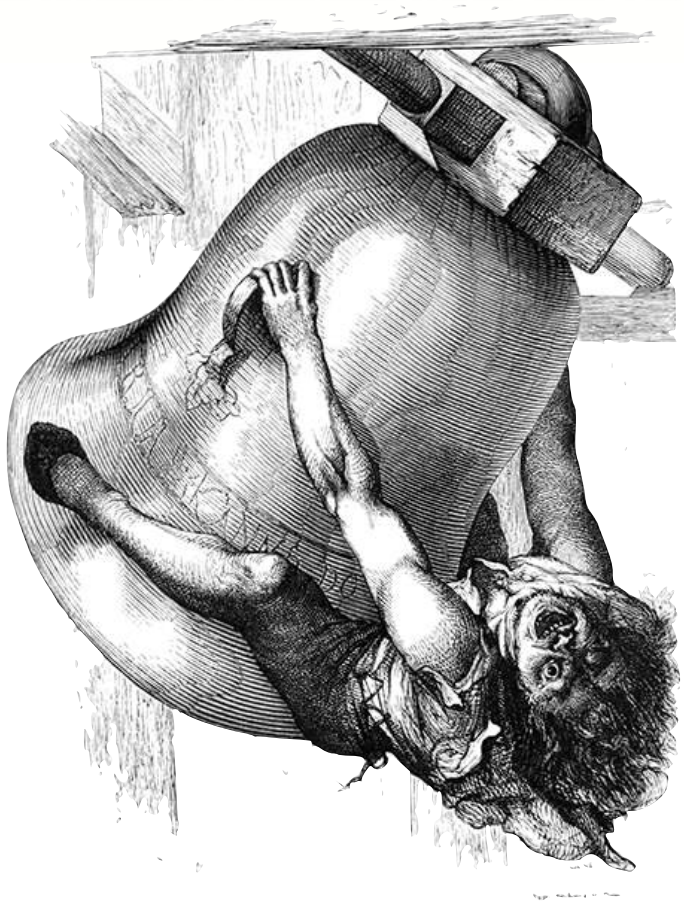
Write a poem about poetry.

Sylvester Stallone, a former lion cage cleaner, had $106 in his bank account when he sold his screenplay for the movie Rocky.

"I never worked a day in my life, it was all fun."
- - Thomas Edison

Drudgery (n.)
tiresome or menial work

What is the worst job in the world? Tell why?



Eighty-five percent of Americans aged 8 - 17 feel good about the clothes they wear."
- - The American Circle youth Poll

"You would be surprised how much it costs to look this cheap." - - Dolly Parton

Vestiphobia (n.) fear of clothing

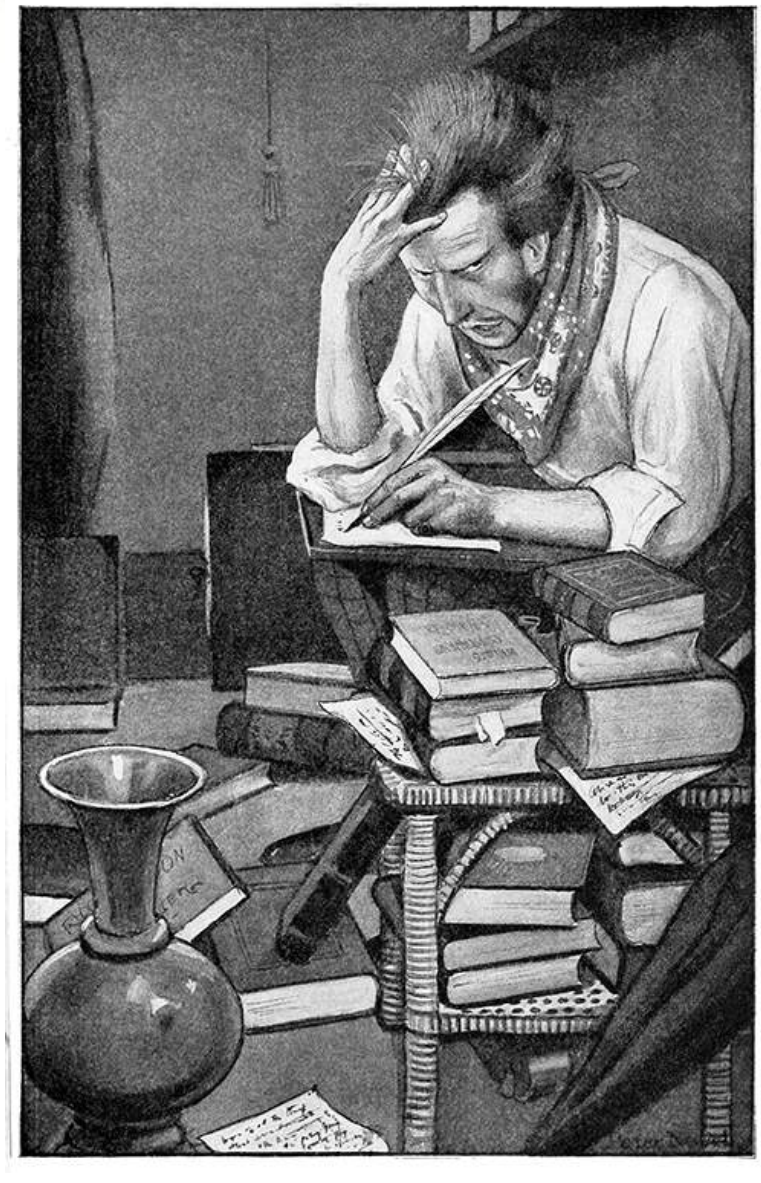
You are given clothes and you hate them. Describe how you'll avoid wearing them without hurting anyone's feelings.

"If you have 10,000 laws and regulations, you destroy all respect for the law." - -Winston Churchill

If a woman proposes marriage to a man in Whitesville, Delaware, she can be charged with disorderly conduct.

jurisprudence (n.) system of laws, or the science or philosophy of law

If you were the ruler of a country and could have only one law what would it be? Why?



Cleopatra believed pickles were good for her health and nibbled on them regularly.

masticate

(v.) chew, ruminate, munch, chomp, crunch, eat

"Anything you have to acquire a taste for was not meant to be eaten." - - Eddie Murphy

Make a list of 10 foods that were not meant to be eaten by you.

“The wallpaper is killing me, one of us has to go.” - - Oscar Wilde on his deathbed

A ten gallon cowboy hat only holds about three quarts.

hyperbole (n.)
an exaggerated
statement like
“I’m so hungry
I could eat a horse.”

Use hyperbole to describe today’s lunch in greatly exaggerated detail (i.e: The food in the cafeteria is so...)

It was Bill Watterson of *Calvin and Hobbes* fame who said: "the people who get nostalgic about childhood were obviously never children."

"I can't make people like me, but if I were me, I would like me."
- - A third grader

NOSTALGIA (N.)
BITTERSWEET LONGINGS FOR THINGS & EVENTS

Write about why it's tough being young.

Gilda Radner claimed to base her fashion taste and clothing choices on what didn't itch.

"Eat to please thyself, but dress to please others." - - Benjamin Franklin

cumberbund (n.)
broad, pleated sash, worn around the waist, traditionally part of a man's tuxedo

Do you usually dress to please yourself or others? Explain.

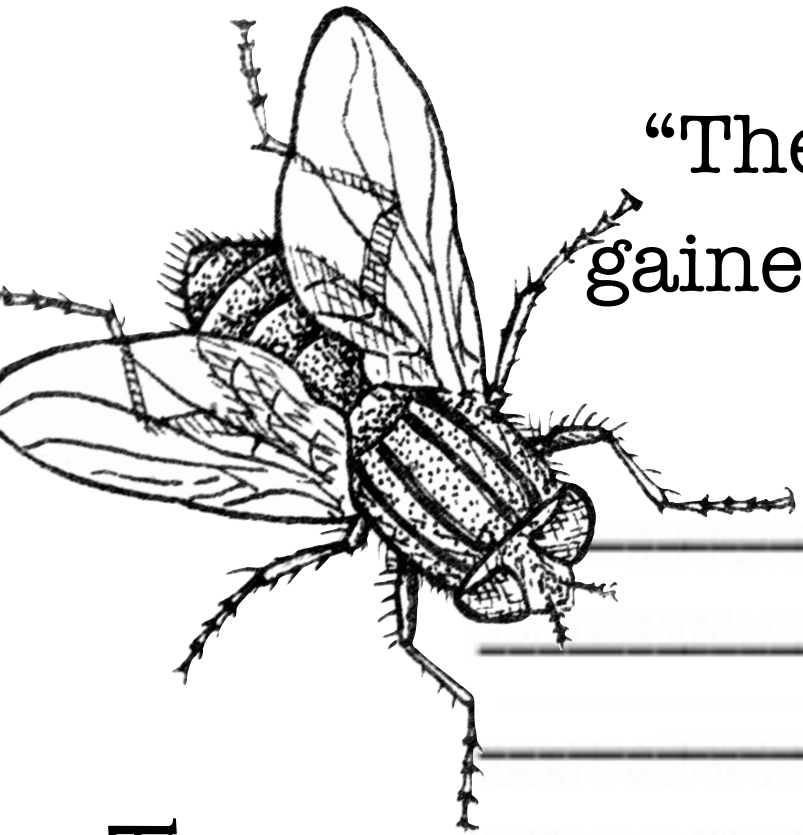
"There's no excuse to be bored. Sad, yes. Angry, yes. Depressed, yes. Crazy, yes. But there's no excuse for boredom, ever."

- - Viggo Mortensen

The typical cow devotes about 18 of every 24 hours to chewing on something.

tedium (n.)
boredom,
apathy, ennui

Use long and boring details to list and describe five things that are most boring to you.



"There is much pleasure to be gained from useless knowledge."
- - Bertrand Russell

There are 100,000 house flies to the pound and their tastebuds are in their feet.

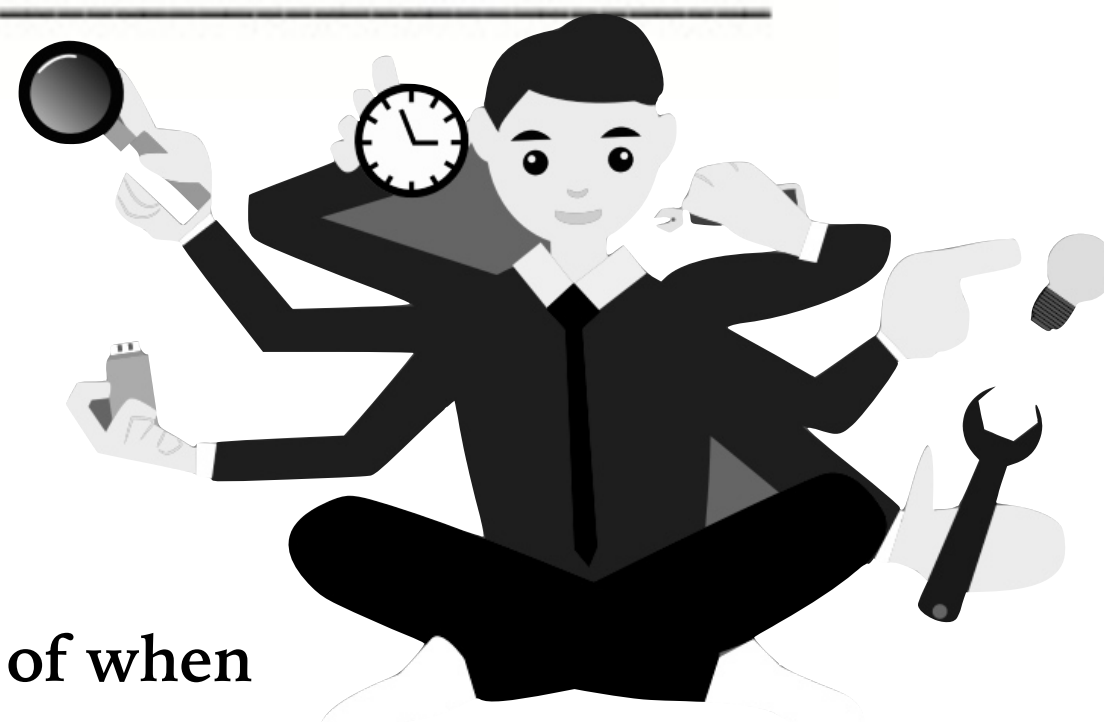
borborygmi (n.) technical term for a growling stomach

What have you learned that seems to be completely useless? Explain.

The head of the Boring Institute claims that the type five most boring things are: standing in line, doing laundry, commuting, attending meetings, and dieting.

"When I am bored no one texts me. When I am busy I am the most popular person in the world."

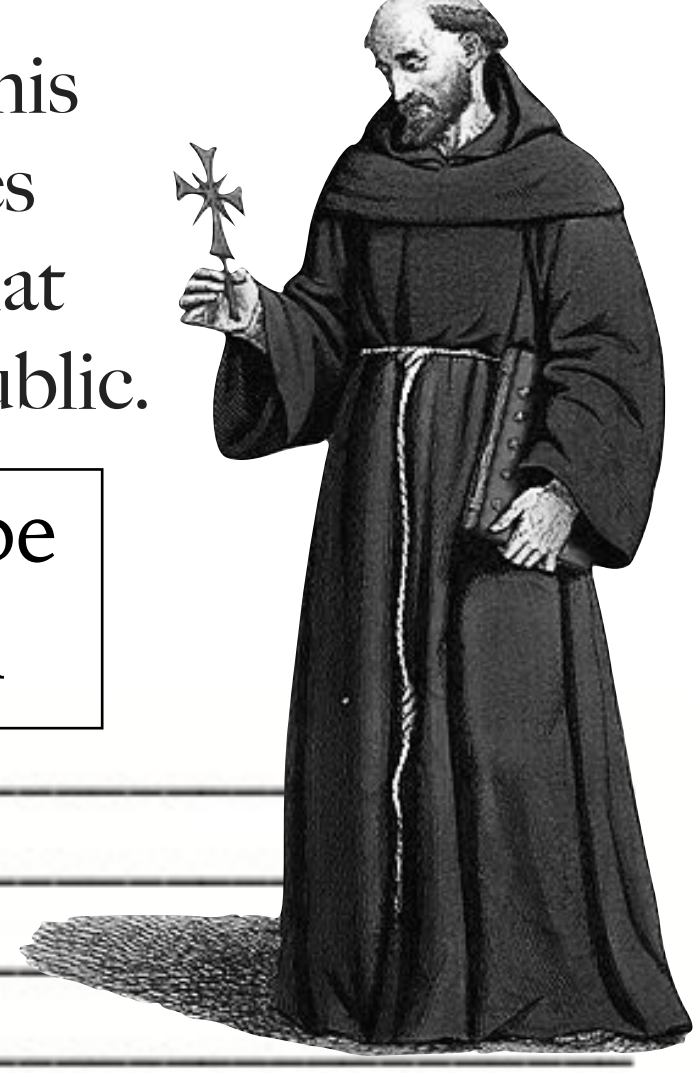
- - Anonymous



ENNUI (N.)
BOREDOM,
TEDIUM,
APATHY

What do you do most of when you are doing nothing?

Feeling a temptation to neglect his scholarly pursuits, Demosthenes shaved one side of his head so that should be ashamed to be seen in public.



"Be virtuous and you will be eccentric." - - Mark Twain

eccentric (adj.)
kooky, weird, unpredictable, unusual, quaint

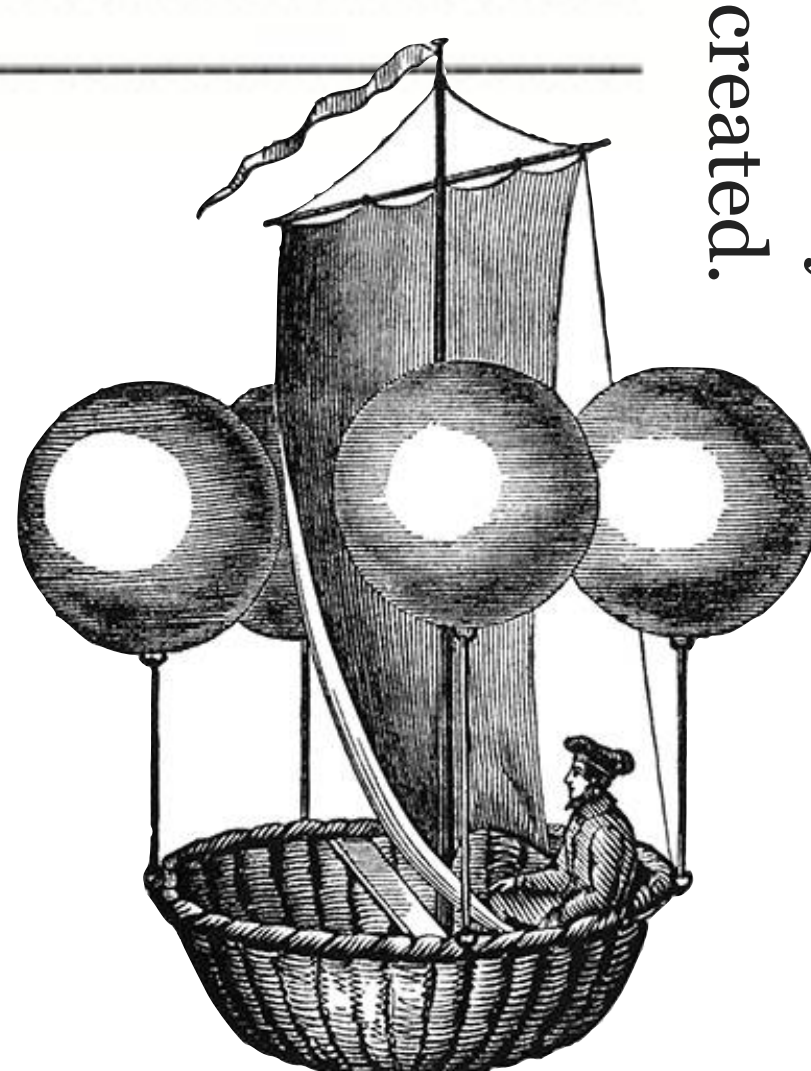
Do you spend more time trying to be like everyone else or different from them?

"Television won't matter in your lifetime or mine."
- - Rex Lambert, 1936

Seventy-five percent of the jobs that will be held by today's kindergarteners have not yet been created.

obsolescent
(adj.)
no longer
used, out-dated

List ten things that will become obsolete in your lifetime.



"Children are our most valuable natural resource." - - Herbert Hoover

The little red schoolhouse was often painted that color because red was the cheapest color of paint to buy.

invaluable (adj.)
of great value,
priceless,
precious

_____

Admission to a concert: $100.
Admission to a movie $10.
Admission to today's class:
$ _____ fill in the proper amount and explain.

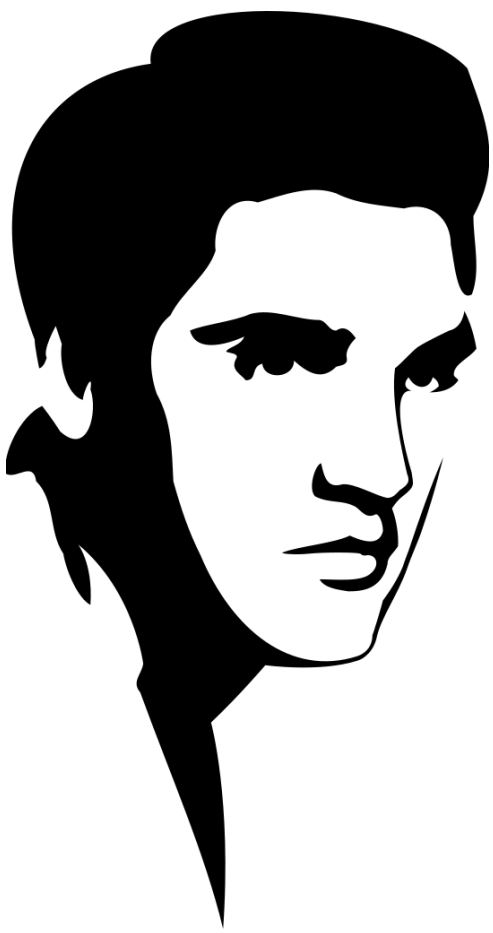
"What are you rebelling against?"
"Whadaya got?"
-- The Wild Ones

insurrection (n.) revolt, mutiny, treason, uprising

The Whiskey Rebellion of 1791, occurred when farmers refused to pay a tax on whiskey made from surplus grain. Washington called the action 'treason' and assembled 13,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion.

What needs rebelling against?

“I don’t know anything about music.
In my line of work you don’t have to”
- - Elvis Presley



vacillate (v.)
to have a hard time deciding between two things, to go back and forth on a decision

The author couldn’t decide on a journal topic for today.
You choose one.

Three percent of Americans think George Washington was history’s most exciting figure. Three percent think it was Elvis Presley

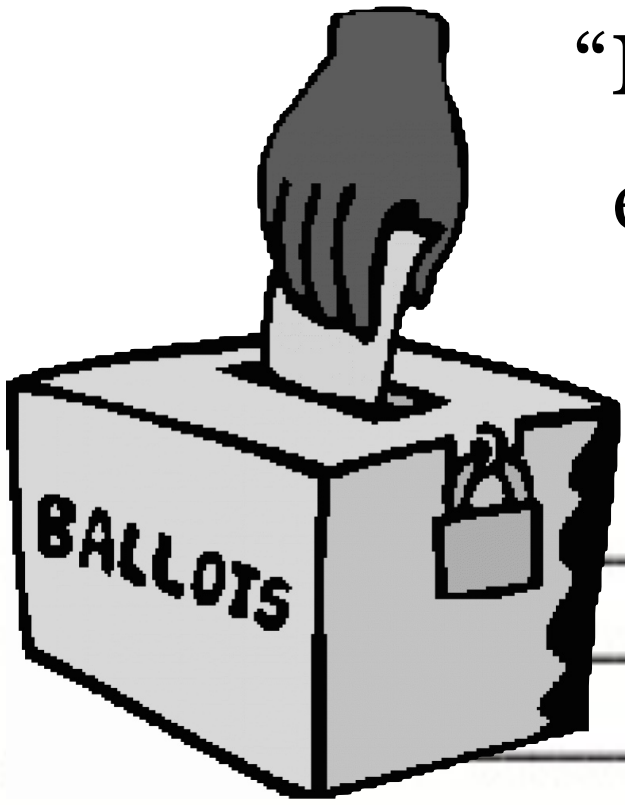
The Consumer Products Safety Commission had to recall 80,000 of its "For Kid's Sake Think Toy Safety" buttons because they were found to be hazardous to kids.

"A little inaccuracy sometimes saves a ton of explanation."

surreptitious (adj.) done sneakily or in hiding

_____

Complete this letter: We regret to inform you that _____ is being recalled because _____.



"My first invention was an electronic vote recorder. No one we interested."

- - Thomas Edison

enfranchisement(n.)
the privilege of voting

Write a campaign speech for Mr. or Mrs. Potato Head. (and / or) create a campaign poster for these notable candidates.

Four write-in votes were cast for Mr. Potato Head in Boise, Idaho, Mayoral election.

Star Trek's William Shatner claims that a UFO saved his life when it sent him telepathic messages leading him to safety after he became stranded in the Mojave Desert.

"I never cease to be dumbfounded by the unbelievable things people believe."
- - Leo Rosten

stupefied (adv.) paralyzed, shocked, dumbfounded

Name and describe in detail five unbelievable things that people believe in.

"He overflowed with learning and stood in the slop." - - Sydney Smith

A tigress in the Champowat district of India was credited with eating four hundred thirty-six human beings before she was shot.

hypercarinosis (n.)
carotene poisoning
from overeating carrots
(can make your skin
turn a lovely orange color)

What do you overindulge in?
Create a clever word for it
(i.e. hyperskating, mega-Tweeting
mondoXboxing, , etc), then
describe its symptoms.

"If we bring a little joy into your humdrum lives, it makes us feel our work ain't been in vain for nuthin'...."
-- Singing in the Rain

Tell about a time when you made someone very happy. What did you do and how did it feel?

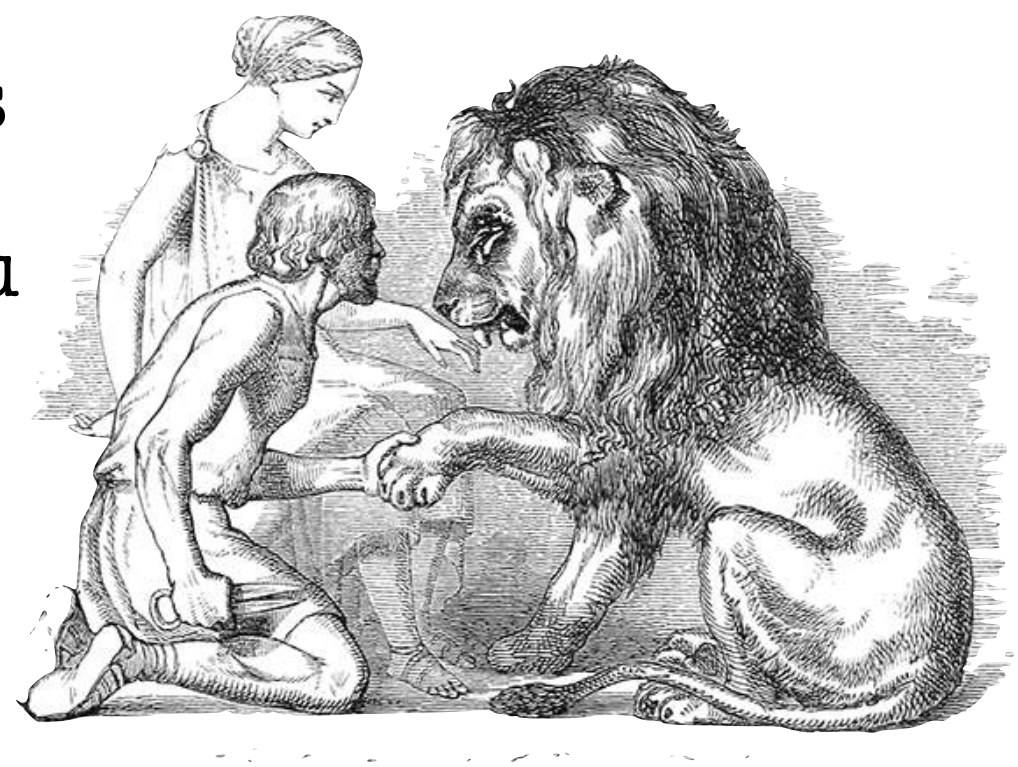
macarism (n.)
the practice of making people happy by praising them

Mr. Ed, TV's talking horse (from the 60's), was made to speak by putting peanut butter on the roof of his mouth.

"I would like to be a horse." - - Queen Elizabeth II

equine(n.)
related to horses

What animal would you like to be? Tell why. If you were that animal what would you tell human beings.



"Nothing is terrible except fear itself." - - Francis Bacon
"Nothing is so much to be feared as fear." - - Henry Thoreau
"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." - - F. D. R.

You can literally be scared to death. People with healthy hearts can die this way, and cardiac patients face a higher risk.

Phrinmophobia (n.)
fear of thinking

Name one of your greatest fears and trace it back to its origin. Tell why it still provokes strong feelings for you.

“I wanted to be sure there were folks out there facing life with nothing up their sleeves but their arms.”

- - H. Phillip Lovecraft

ambidextrous (adj.)
able to use either hand equally well

If your hand is like most folks, your thumb is as strong as the four fingers opposing it.

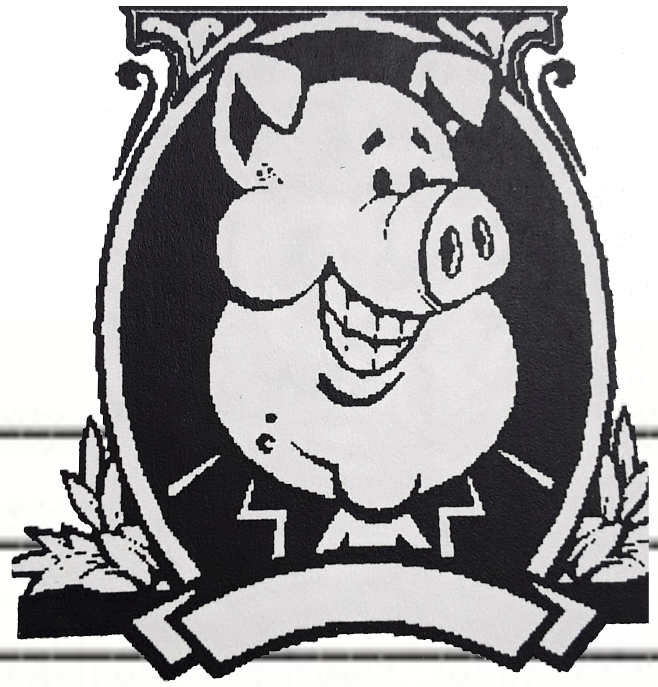
Write about anything you’d like... but grab a pen or pencil and use the hand that you don’t normally write with. How does it look?

"The inventor tries to meet the demands of a crazy civilization." - - Thomas Edison

One of Henry Ford's prized possessions was Thomas Edison's dying breath trapped in a bottle.

daft (adj.)
crazy,
daffy,
dizzy,
dazed,
silly

What do you think is the craziest part of our civilization? Tell why.



porcine (adj.)
characteristics
of pigs or hogs

A hog's eyesight is better than human's.

"Don't try to teach a pig to sing. It doesn't work, and annoys the pig."
- - Judy Sheindlin

What feature (s) do you have that are like an animal's? Describe them.

German poet Johann Schiller claimed that he couldn't write unless he could smell rotten apples in his desk.

"Somerset Maugham said there were three rules for writing -- and nobody knows what the are." - - Joan Collins

Graphophbia (n.)

fear of writing

Write three wacky rules for writing.

"I rue the day that the Beatles were unfortunately born into this world. They are, in my mind, responsible for most of the degradation that has happened, not only musically, but in the sense of youth orientation too." - - Frank Sinatra

rue (v.) regret, lament

Is there anything in your past that you regret? If so, tell about it. If not, write about something you wish you had done.

The original title of Paul McCartney and John Lennon's song "Yesterday" was "Scrambled Eggs."

"No one ever called me pretty when I was a little girl ." -- Marilyn Monroe

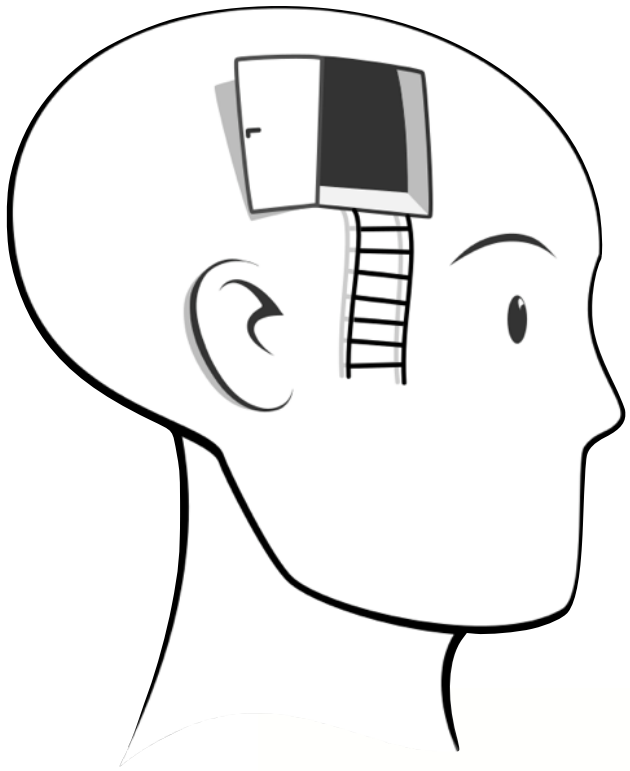
Marilyn Monroe's body was used as a model for the creation of Peter Pan's friend, Tinker Bell.

rebarbative (adj.)

ugly, repellent, repulsive, revolting, unattractive

Everyone has an ugly duckling story.

Write your story, complete with a happy ending.



"Actually, there are six senses, but very few people use the common one." - - Anonymous

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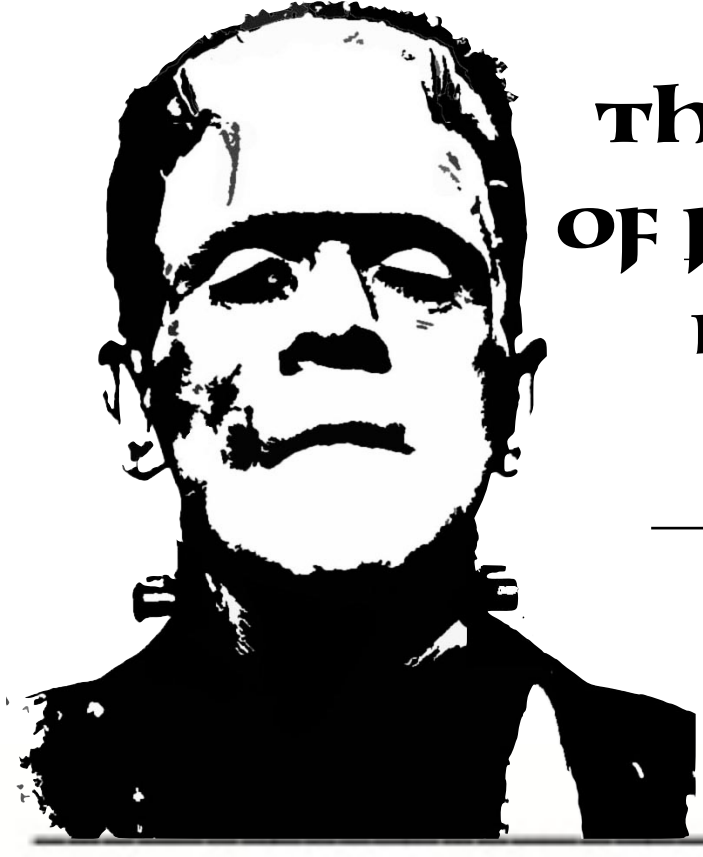
rational (adj.) astute, based on reason

More pedestrians get killed while crossing with the signal than against it.

Do you know someone who is 'smart' bit lacks common sense? Explain.



The first movie version of Frankenstein released in 1910, was produced by Thomas Edison

synonymous (adj.) identical, same, equivalent, duplicate

"Frankenstein and My Fair Lady are really the same story."
- - William Holden

If you were creating a perfect version of yourself, what would you change? Why?

“I don't smoke. I don't drink to speak of. I don't take drugs at all. I take care of my two children. I've been married twice, once for 11 years and once for three years. I don't go out with more than one man at a time. But, you know what it is: I dress strange.” - - Cher

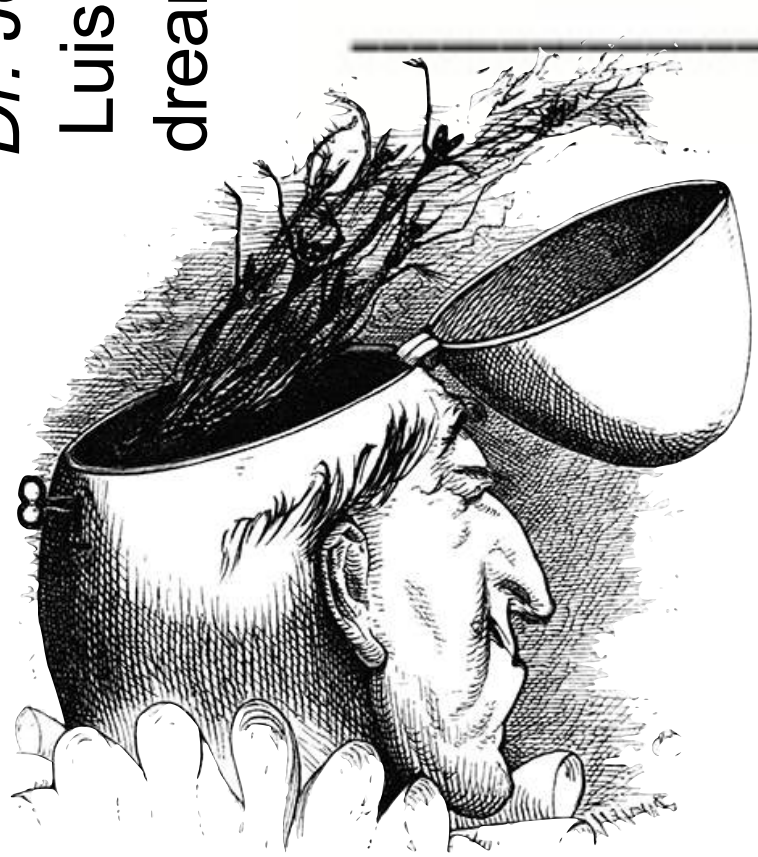
outlandish (adj.) bizarre, weird, outrageous, odd

“I love the fashion which is out of fashion.”
- - Megha Khare

Describe the most bizarre outfit you have ever seen worn by a human.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."
- - Eleanor Roosevelt

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde was the result of a Robert Luis Stevenson dream. Stevenson said he could dream plots for his stories whenever he felt like it.



serendipity (n.) the quality of coming upon some important idea, insight, or discovery by accident.

Write the script for a perfect dream.

"The impossible is often the untried."

- - John Goodwin

Elon Musk's SpaceX expects to send private citizens on a trip around the moon in 2020. Price tag is a hefty $175 million U.S. dollars.

preposterous (adj.)
absurd, foolish,
ridiculous

Describe one day of your vacation on the moon. Be creative. It could really happen in your lifetime!

Louis XIV of France never took a bath. As late as the end ofthe 18th century, Parisians regarded baths as medication, and seldom were treated more that one a year.

"I don't like baths. I don't enjoy them in the slightest and, if I could, I'd prefer to go around dirty."
- - J. B. Priestly

Write a story about a place where bathing is banned.

squalid
(adj.)
dirty,
filthy,
unclean

"The idea of recognizing your strengths and using them in as versatile a way as you can is cool to me." - - Frank Ocean (Oceans 11)

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang was written by Ian Fleming, creator of the James Bond franchise.

Everyone says that you are versatile. Tell how you are and how you got that way.

`versatile``(adj.)`
flexible, having many abilities and skills

Here's a tough one: Name a word that has nine letters, only one of which is a vowel, and is the longest one-syllable word in the English language?

"One great use of words is to hide our thoughts." - -Voltaire

verbicide (n.) the killing of words by a liar, bookburner, or person who misuses words

Describe a time when words didn't properly express your thoughts or feelings.

The answer is <u>strength</u>

"Human beings need to feel that they are lovable and capable of loving." - - Fred (Mr.) Rogers

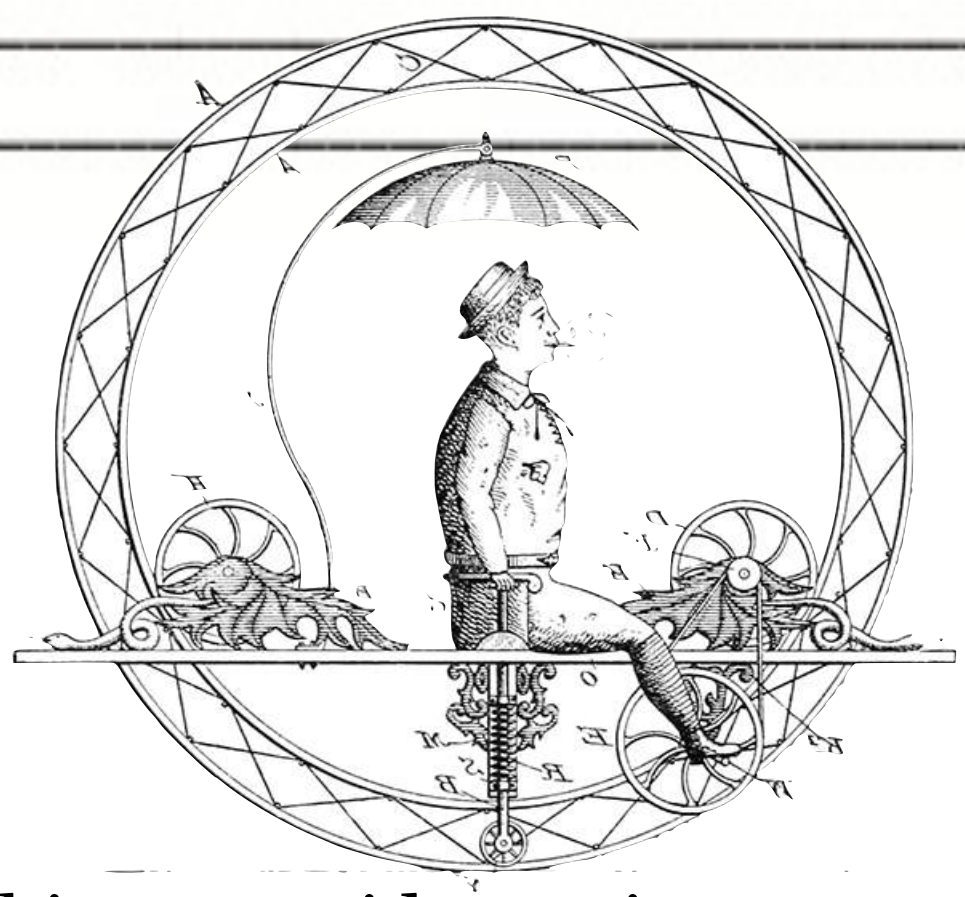
Tom Hanks had three mothers, five elementary schools, and ten houses by the time he was ten.

affable (n.)
lovable,
cordial,
friendly

Explain the saying: "nice guys finish last."

A chemist invented a wig made of human hair, asbestos and vulcanized rubber. It can be set on fire and still look great.

"Nothing is so good as it seems beforehand." - - George Elliot



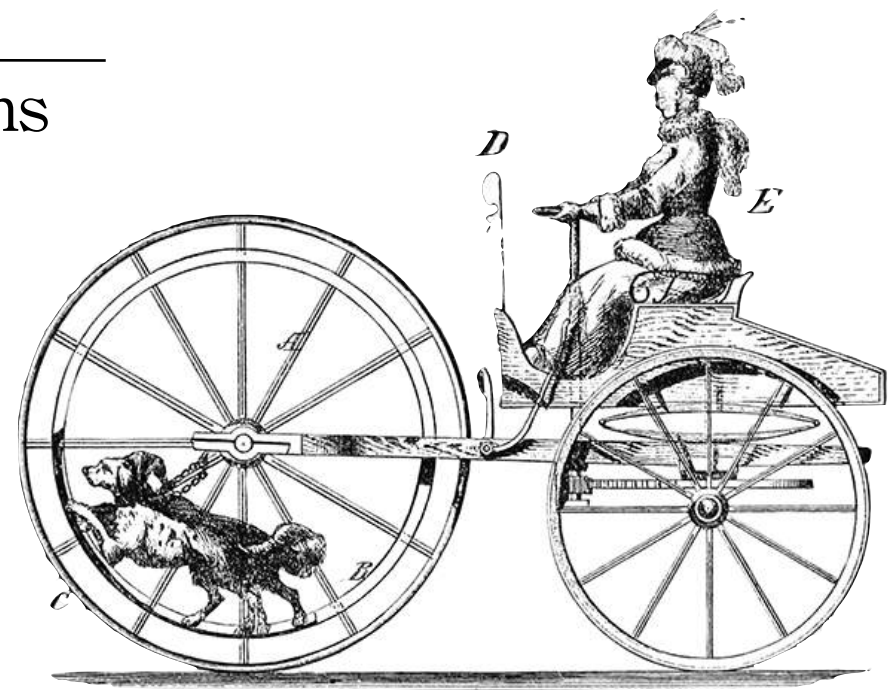
ludicrous
(adj.)
foolish,
funny,
farcical,
absurd

Chia pets, widget spinners, spray-on-hair...
list as many ridiculous products as you can.

"It is not so long ago that people thought that semi-conductors were part-time orchestra leaders and microchips were very, very, small snack foods." -- Geraldine Ferraro

rigamarole (n.) nonsensical procedure or double-talk speech

Name three inventions that have been developed during your lifetime and describe their impact on culture.

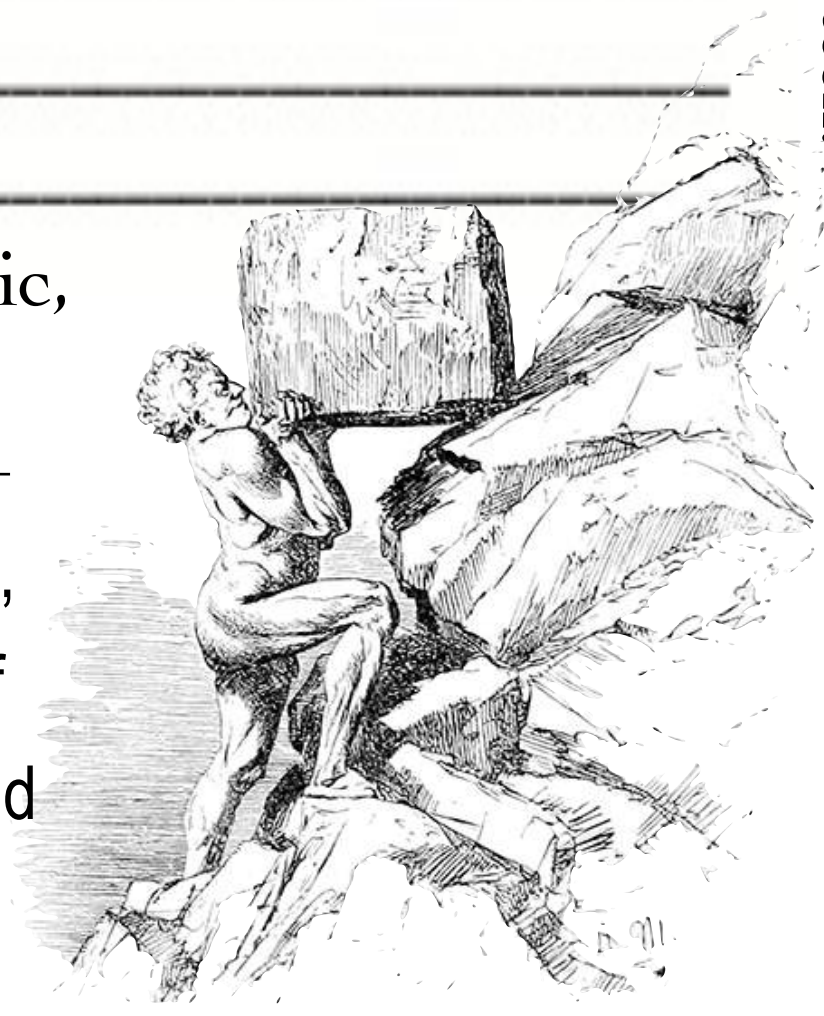


Technoid Industries of California invented an indestructible nail polish that won't chip, peel, or crack and is good for temperatures up to 5,500 degrees F. It comes in black and gun-metal grey. Trouble is, it can only be removed by a laser beam.

"No matter what happens in life, be good to people. Being good to people is a wonderful legacy to leave behind." - - Taylor Swift

wretched (adj.) pathetic, miserable, horrible

Yes, life can be horrible, but it can also be full of wonderful things. List and describe three of them.



Caliph Abdurrahman II, the tenth century's greatest emperor, had more than 6000 wives and 600 children. He earned the equivalent of hundreds of millions of dollars. However, his deathbed will read: "I have counted the days when I enjoyed complete happiness and found them to have numbered but fourteen."

In the 1950's, Elvis Presley and Buddy Holly failed auditions for '**Talent Scouts**', a television program designed to showcase promising talent.

"Be kind. Remember, everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." - - John Watson

empathy (n.) the ability to share in someone else's emotions

Describe how you could help someone fight their hard battle.

“If you can’t answer a person’s argument, all is not lost; you can still call them a vile name.”
- - Elbert Hubbard

Unlike most languages, Balinese has no curse words. The people of Bali rarely raise their voices in anger.

RIXATION (N.) QUARREL, ARGUMENT, ALTERCATION

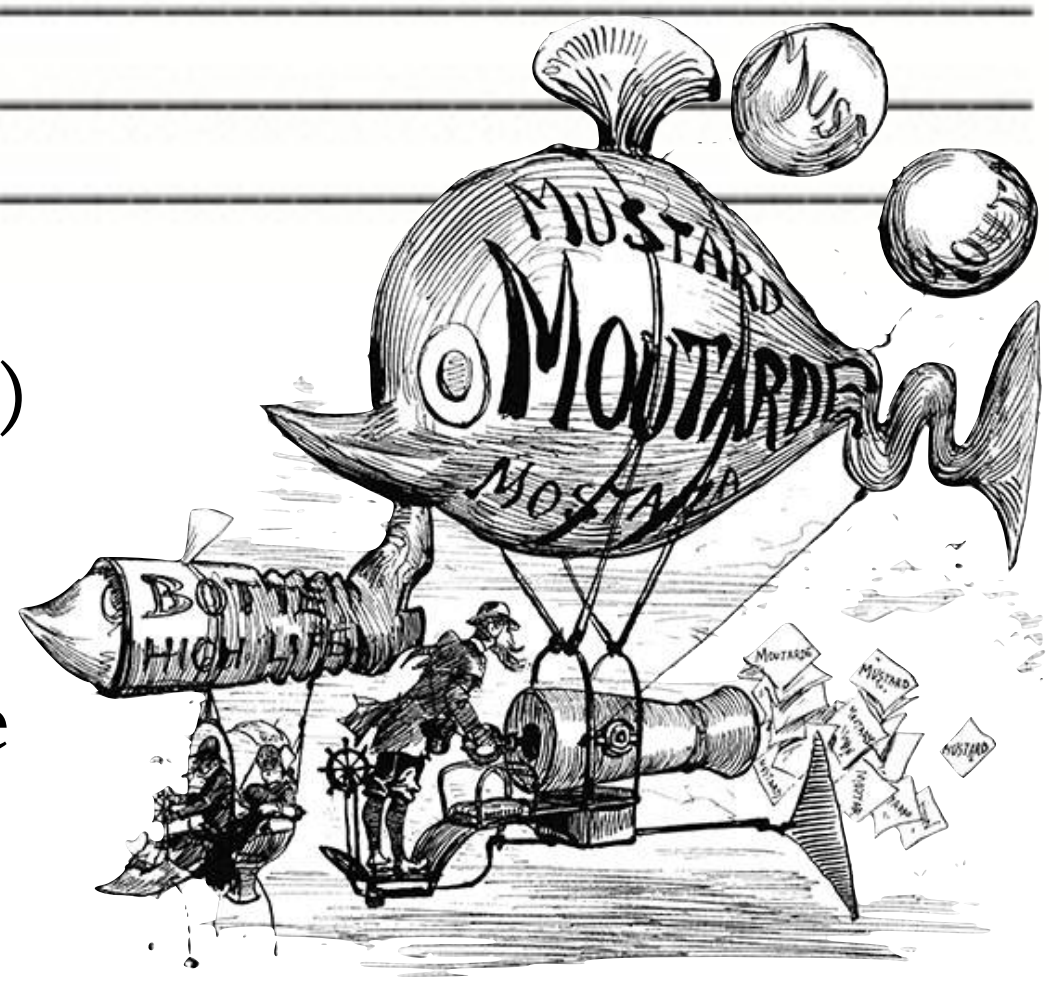
HOW DO THE BALINESE DO IT???

Tell how life in our culture would change if we had no curse words or never raised our voices in anger.

The microwave oven was discovered in 1946 when microwaves melted the chocolate in scientists Percy Spencer's pocket.

"Genius is taking something difficult and making it simple." - - George Harrison

conjecture (n.)
a guess
based
on incomplete
information



Make up a fake story about how something was invented.

"Stay close to the young, and a little rubs off." - - Gigi

Sting, was an English teacher and soccer coach before he became a famous song writer and musical performer with the band Police.

zany (adj.)
outlandish,
foolishly
comical

Does growing up always have to mean growing old? Tell why or why not.

Mozart wrote the music to "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" when he was five years old.

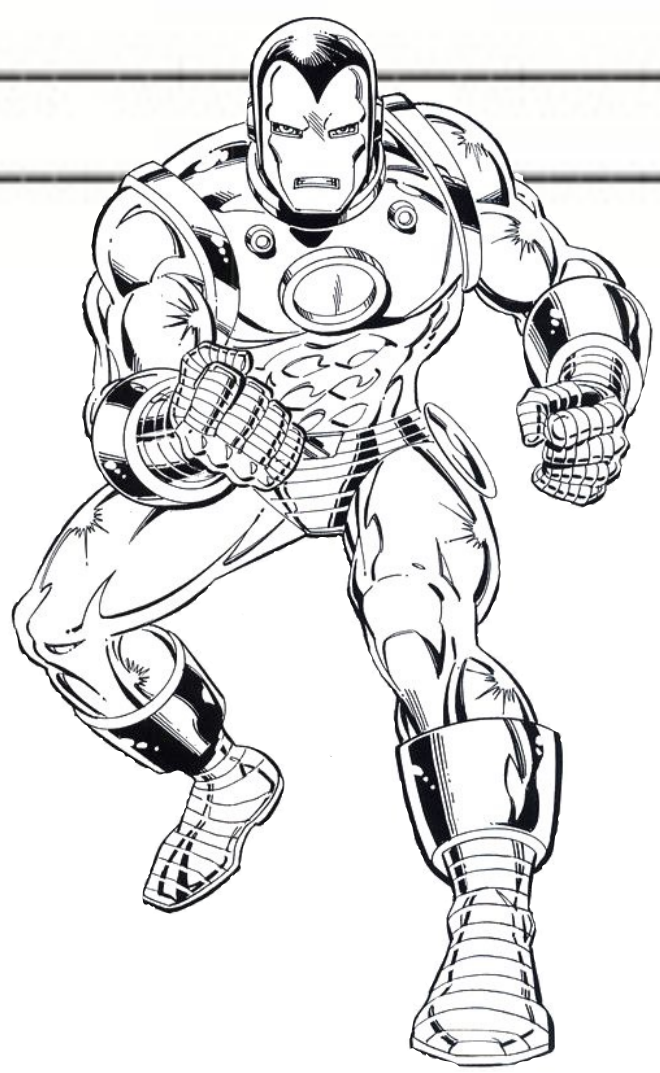
"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once they grow up" - - Pablo Picasso

What do children know that adults have forgotten?

naive (adj.) immature, childlike, innocent, simple, trusting

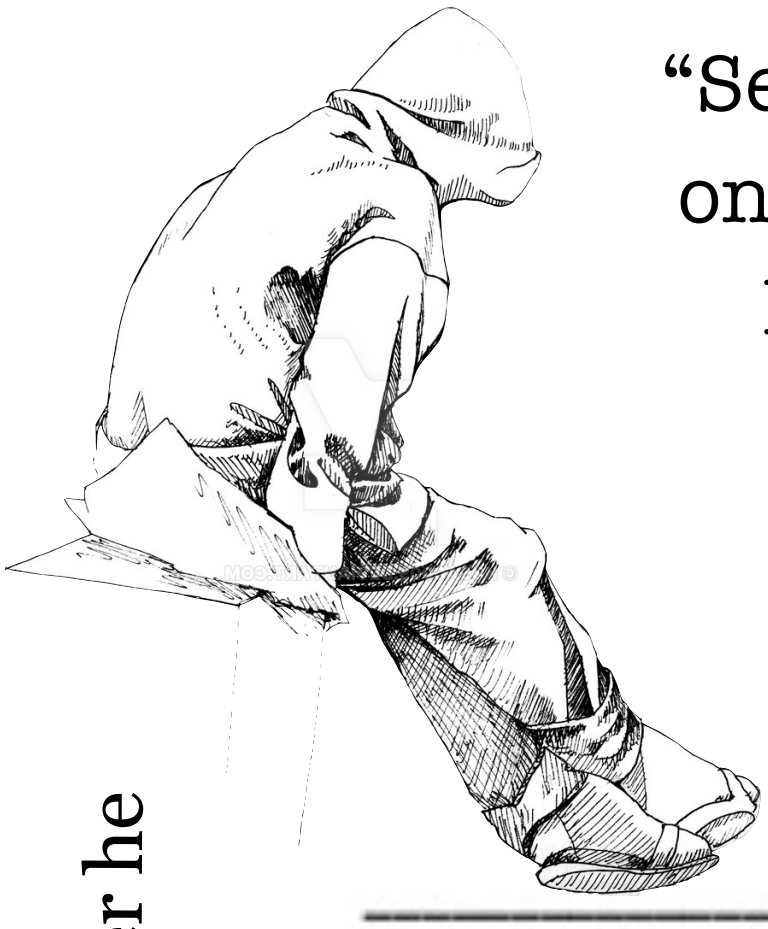
"When confronted by a seemingly difficult problem, it is easier solved by reducing it to the question, 'How would the Lone Ranger have handled this?'" - - Karyn Brady

The Lone Range's title "Kemo Sabe" was supposed to mean "faithful friend", but in Apache it means "white shirt;" and Navajo it means "soggy shrub."



befuddled (adj.) unclear, confused, mixed-up

Which SUPERHERO would you summon for help in an emergency? Write a clever short story about your choice.



"Seven out of 10 Americans are one paycheck away from being homeless." - - Pras Michel

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vagrant (adj.) a person without a settled home or regular work who wanders from place to place and lives by begging.

Beethoven was such a messy dresser he was once arrested for vagrancy.

Have you ever been a vagrant? (or) do you now anyone who has? Tell the story of how that happened and how it changed?

"There is nothing new under the sun, but there are lots of old things we don't know."

- - Ambrose Bierce

tete-a-tete (n.) French for 'head-to-head' meeting

If you could meet anyone from history, who would you choose? Write five questions you would ask of that person.

Paul Revere was a dentist, silversmith, engraver, militia officer, coroner, poet, health official and a founder of Revere Copper, and a successful insurance company.

"Work is either fun or drudgery. It depends on your attitude. I like fun."
- - Colleen C. Barrett

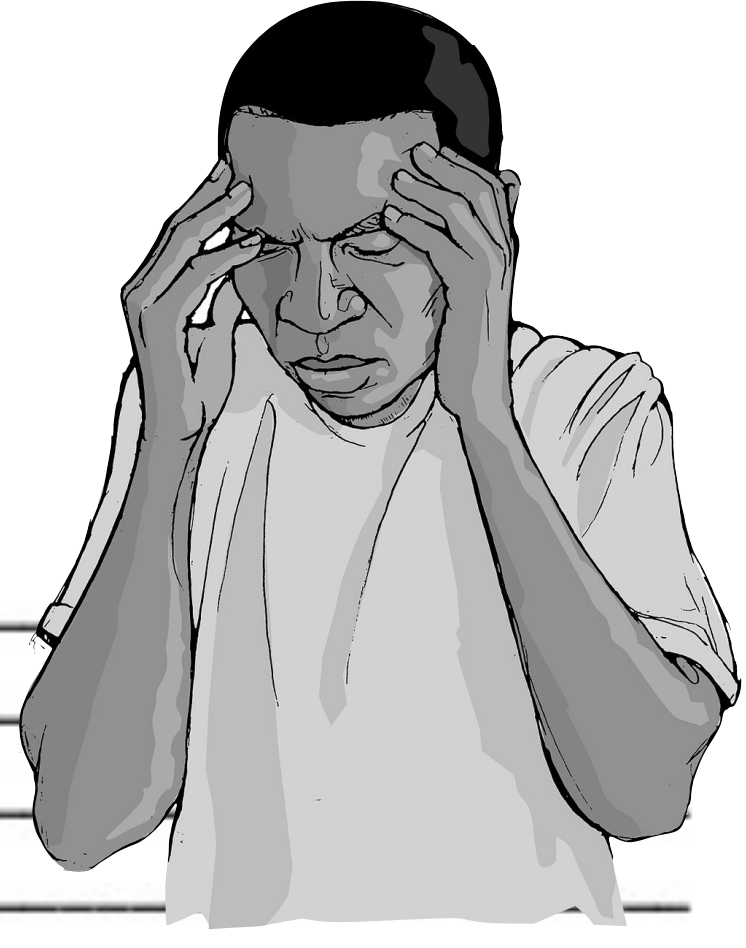
Here are some very odd jobs you might want: ant catcher, digging up live ants for use in ant farms; worm picker, gathering worms to be used as fish bait; and weed farmer, growing weeds for herbicide research.

ambivalent (adj.) having conflicting feeling or thoughts

Write a help wanted ad for an exceedingly odd job.

"Why is noise so often so much more enjoyable to make than to be forced to hear?"

- - Ashleigh Brilliant



cacophonous (adj.) harsh, jarring, unnerving sound

Just about nothing underwater is noisier than a bed of shrimp.

What noises do you make that drive other people nuts. Tell a story.

If you have a useless hobby, you could join the Institute of Totally Useless Skills whose members do such things as juggle, yodel, make paper airplanes and snap their fingers creatively.

"Freedom is being aware of all the possible choices and choosing that which you truly want." - - Adel Palkhivala

futile (adj.) worthless, useless, pointless

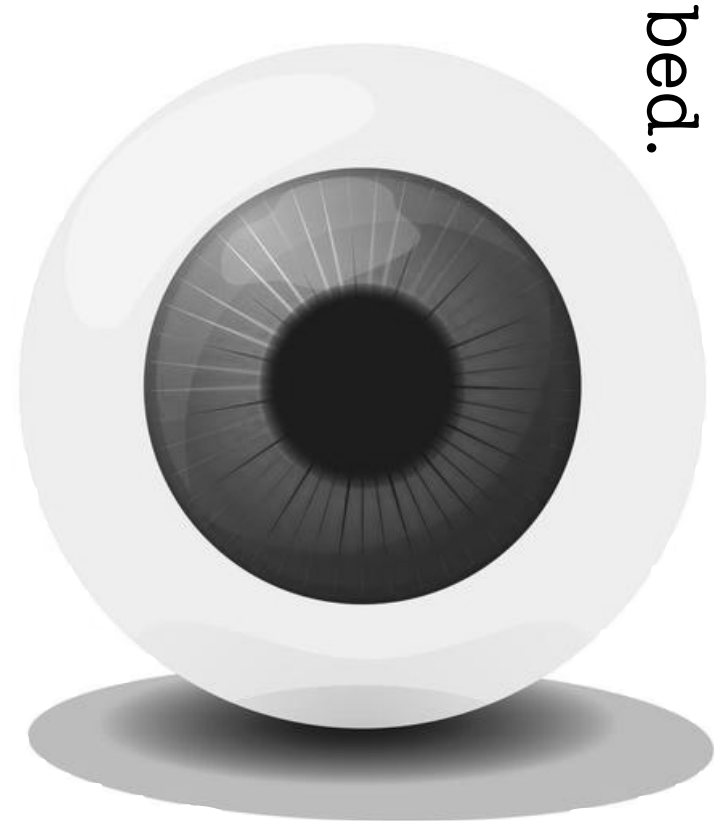
List ten totally useless skills that would qualify for the Totally Useless Skills Institute.

"I love information. What I don't like is having to do something with it."
- - Colleen C. Barrett

Among the items left on London's subway are a box of false eyeballs, a skeleton and a double bed.

redundant (adj.)
needlessly repetitive,
needlessly repetitive

Find six clever uses for a box of false eyeballs.



"Tell us your phobias and we'll tell you what you are afraid of."
- - Robert Benchley

cremnophobia (n.)
fear of falling down stairs

World conqueror & French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte was deathly afraid of cats.

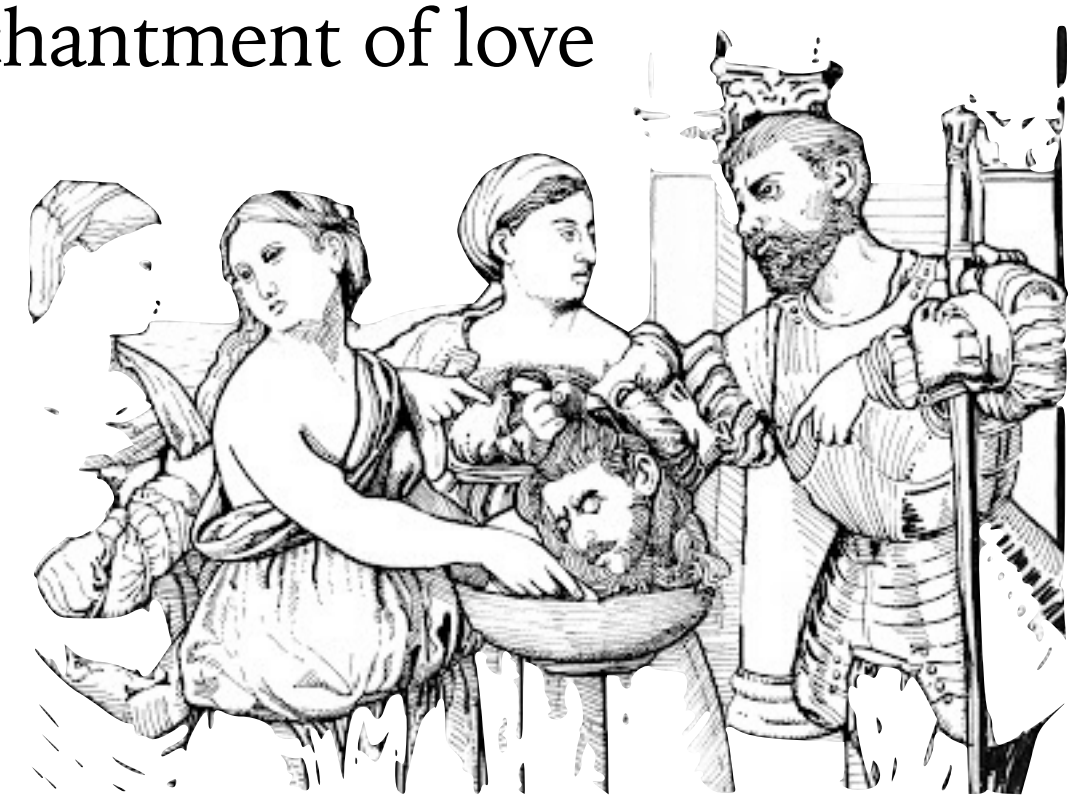
Create names and meanings for five new phobias.

After Sir Walter Raleigh was beheaded in 1618, his wife, Elizabeth had his head embalmed. She carried it with her in a such at her side for twenty-nine years until she died.

"Infatuation is not quite the same thing as love; it's more like love's shady second cousin who's always borrowing money and can't hold down a job." - - Elizabeth Gilbert

infatuation (adj.) fascination or enchantment of love

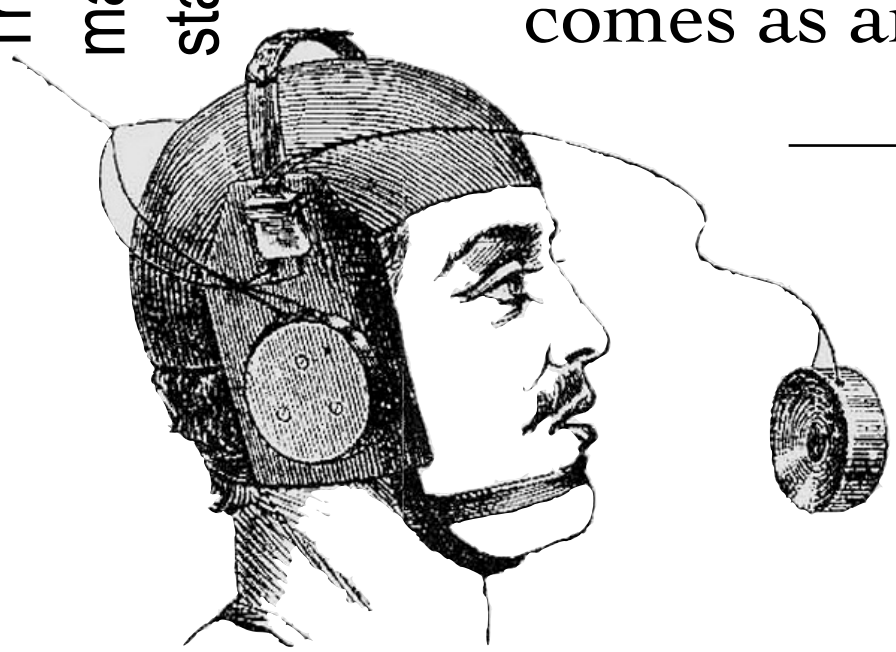
What sort of crazy things do people do for love? Tell a memorable story.



The prototype for the first modern adding machine was created from a macaroni box, several meat skewers, some elastic bands, several dozen staples, a pocket-knife, and the imagination of a man named Door Felt.

"The two most engaging powers of an author are to make new things familiar, familiar things new." - - William Makepeace Thackeray

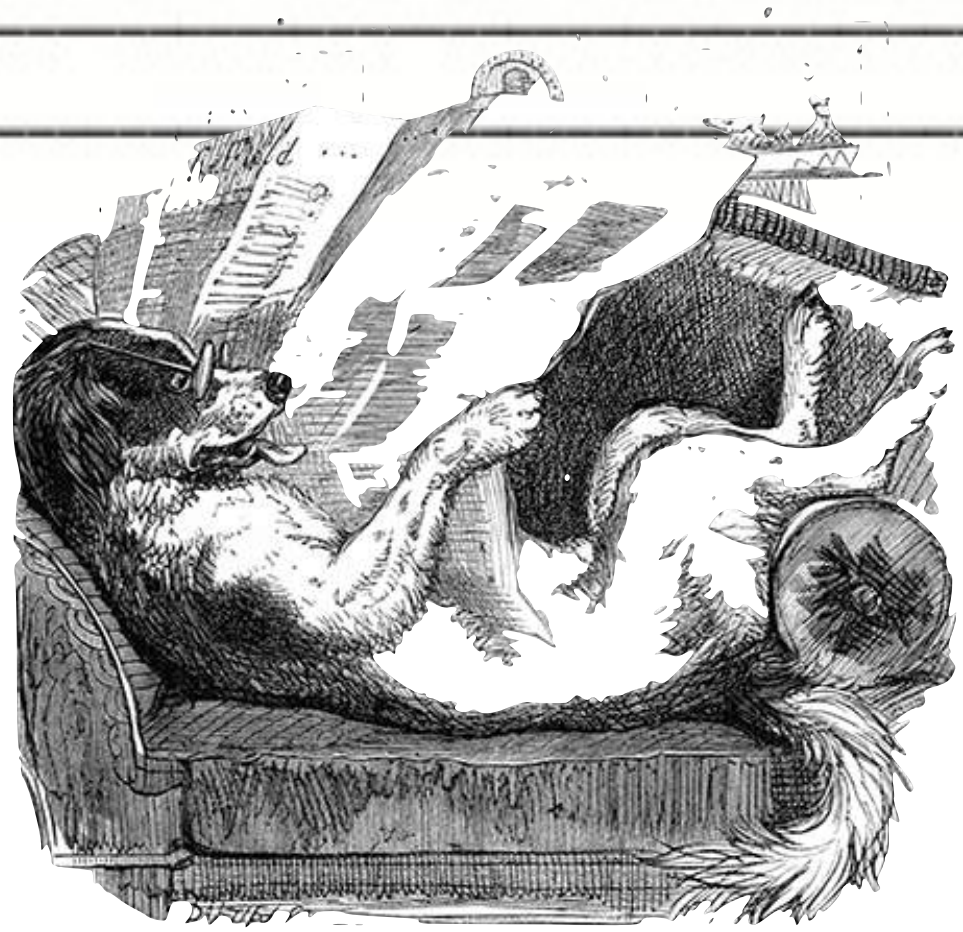
fortuitous (adj.) lucky, something that comes as an unexpected surprise



Create new and novel applications for using a common household product or contraption.

"Dogs come when they're called; cats take a message and get back to you later." - - Mary Bly

Donna Douglas, Elly Mae Clamped on the Beverly Hillbillies, invented Critter Country Classics pet cologne: *Miss Tabby* for cats and *Timber Wolf* for dogs.



extraneous
(adj.)
excessive
unnecessary,
superfluous

Write an outrageous pampered pet story.

"I'm so bored I could do something, but I'm unmotivated as well as bored. It's a killer combination." - - Gillibran Brown

tedium (n.)
boredom,
monotony,
dullness,
doldrums

Use long and boring details to list five things that are most boring to you.

The head of the Boring Institute claims that the top five most boring things are: standing in line, doing laundry, commuting, attending meetings and dieting.

"You are never fully dressed without a smile."

- - Bud Cort

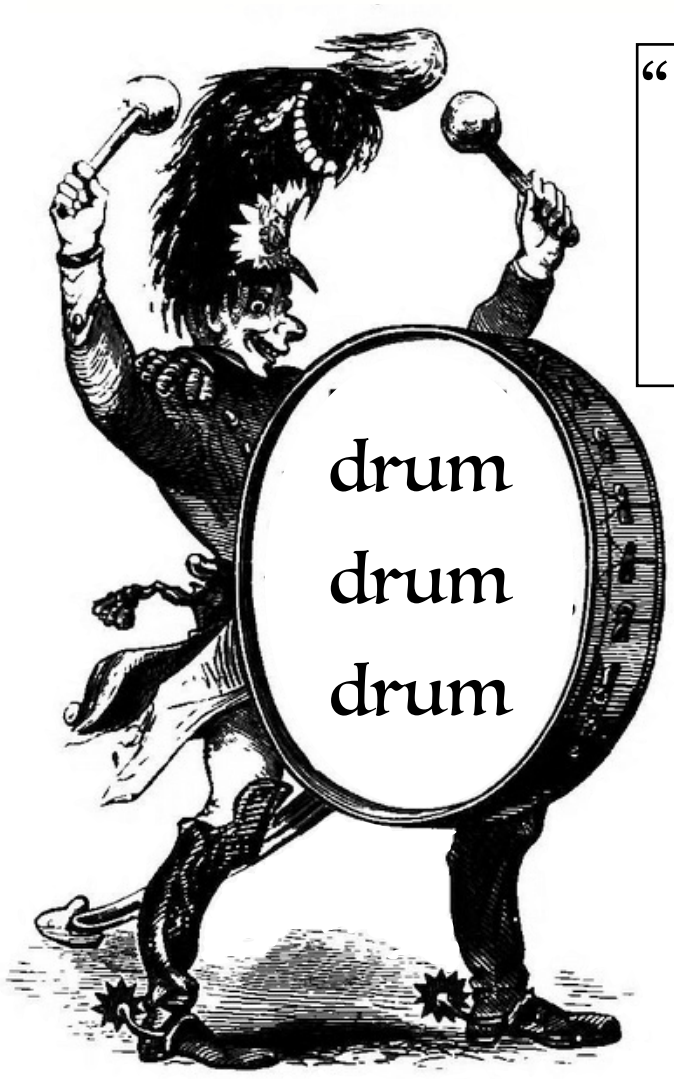
It takes seventeen muscles to smile and forty-three to frown.

girning (n.) to **grin** (v.) the act of - or contorting your face (not grinning)

Work with a partner and take turns watching, then describing the exact procedure for smiling.

onomatopoeia (n.) words that sound like their meaning: examples in column at right.

achoo
bang
beep
boom
buzz
click
fizz
hiss
sizzle
slurp
splash
tick-tock
vroom
whisper
zip



"..his voice was like the cracking of ice on a winter lake, and the words were mocking." - - George R.R. Martin,

Invent and write onomatopoeic words for these sounds: a screaming baby, fingernails on a chalkboard, squishing mashed potatoes between your teeth, a jackhammer, plus two of your own.

In 1736, the Pied Piper led the plague of rats from the streets of Hamlin.
When the city refused to pay his fee, he whistled away all the town's children.

"Clearly the city is not a concrete jungle, it is a human zoo."
- - Desmond Morris

anthropomorphism (v.)
assigning human qualities
to other animals

Would animals like to
be like humans.
Tell why or why not.

“You can’t shake hands with a clenched fist.”- - Indira Gandhi

wrangle (v.) bicker, dispute, feud, argue, squabble, quarrel

What do fights ‘really’ accomplish?’
Tell a story -
but tell the truth.

I * hit * him * in * the * eye * yesterday * Dr. Ernest Brennecke of Columbia University devised this sentence which takes on eight different meanings when the word **ONLY** is added in each position designated by asterisks. Try it.

Chinese dissident Lin Gong was arrested for failing to report to police to inform them of his thoughts.

"Most people would rather die than think; in fact, they do." - - Bertrand Russell

introspection (n.) thinking closely about your own thoughts and feelings

What's dangerous about thinking?

Think about it and tell why.

Davy Crockett of song and film is a brave and righteous hero, but in real life Davy was a complete liar and a coward, who also deserted his wife. He avoided military service during the Creek Indian War by hiring a stand-in.

"A liar needs a good memory."

-- Quintilian (35-96 A.D.)

charlatan (n.) a fake, a person who falsely claims to have knowledge or skill that they don't possess.

Describe a lie that got away from you.

"Swearing is an art form. You can express yourself much more exactly, much more succinctly, with properly used curse words."
- - Coleman Young

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expletive (n.) an exclamation that is often a swear word

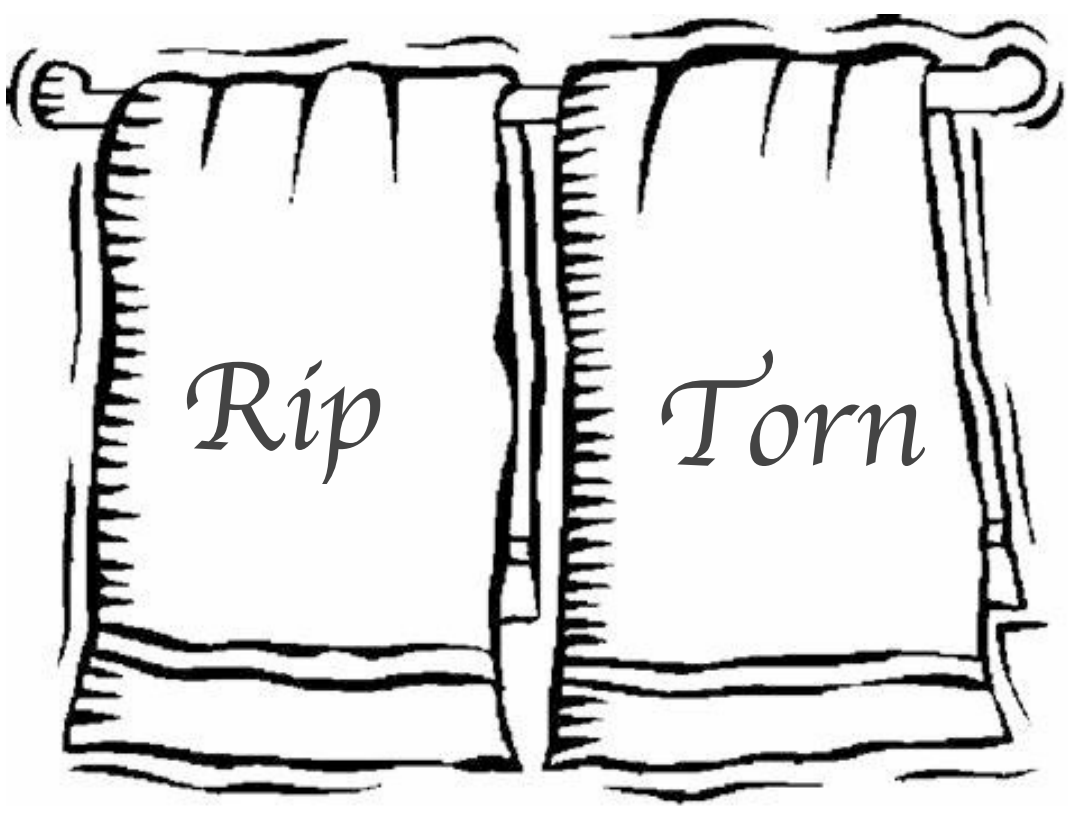
The strongest muscle in your mouth is your tongue.

Tell about a time when you got in trouble for something you said. Then describe the consequence you experienced.

"I like my crazy name. People remember it because it was always cropping up in crossword puzzles, stuff like that." - - Rip Torn

When actor Rip Torn Married actor Geraldine Page the combined names on their mailbox became 'Torn Page'.

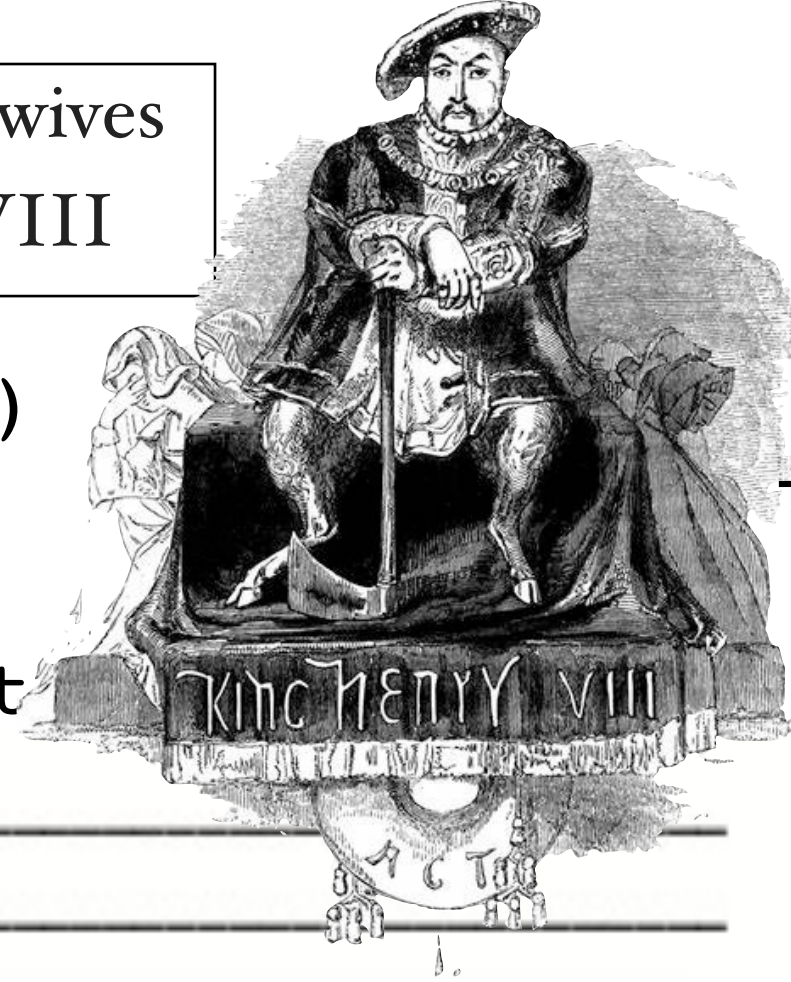
nomenclature (n.) system of names or terms, jargon



Invent 10 crazy names for yourself:
(i.e.) Mary Land
N. D. Pendent,
Miss Assippi
Al A. Bama

"Two beheadings our of six wives is too many." -- Henry VIII

stringent (adj.)
firm,harsh,
heavy-handed,
extremely strict



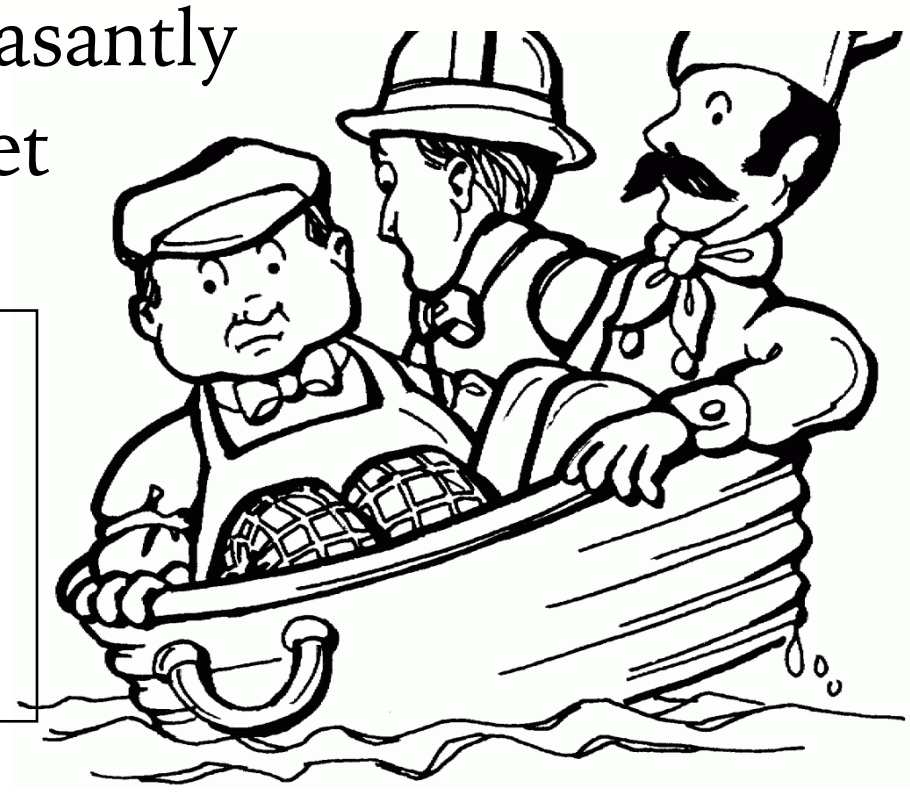
Henry VIII had a special punishment for kitchen help caught in plots to harm their masters. He boiled them in a huge cauldron.

Have you ever gotten (or heard of) a punishment that seemed to exceed the crime? If so, tell about it. If you don't you will be severely punished!!

An estimated 4000 sunken ships are on the bottom of the ocean off the coast of New England. Worldwide, more than one million vessels have sunk in the last 500 years.

"I am not inclined to sink boats with people in them." -- President Jimmy Carter

dank (adj.) unpleasantly chilly and wet



You have two minutes to load a lifeboat. Who and what will you take?

"Patience and persistence are the keys... the keys to unlock doors of success... with these two virtues, you grow in reasoning and experience."

- - Ogwo David Emenike

The red sponge can be chopped up, ground up, and forced through a handkerchief into a mist in an aquarium, but the next day it will be reformed into a new sponge shaped exactly like it was before.

perseverance (n.) persistence, survival, resolution, tenacity, resolve, endurance	When have you persevered and benefited from your efforts? Tell about it.

"Before I start speaking, I'd like to have something to say." - - Anonymous

lalomania (n.) abnormal interest in speech

A Florida boy began talking like Donald Duck when he was two. Ten years later, doctors determined that he could no longer speak normally.

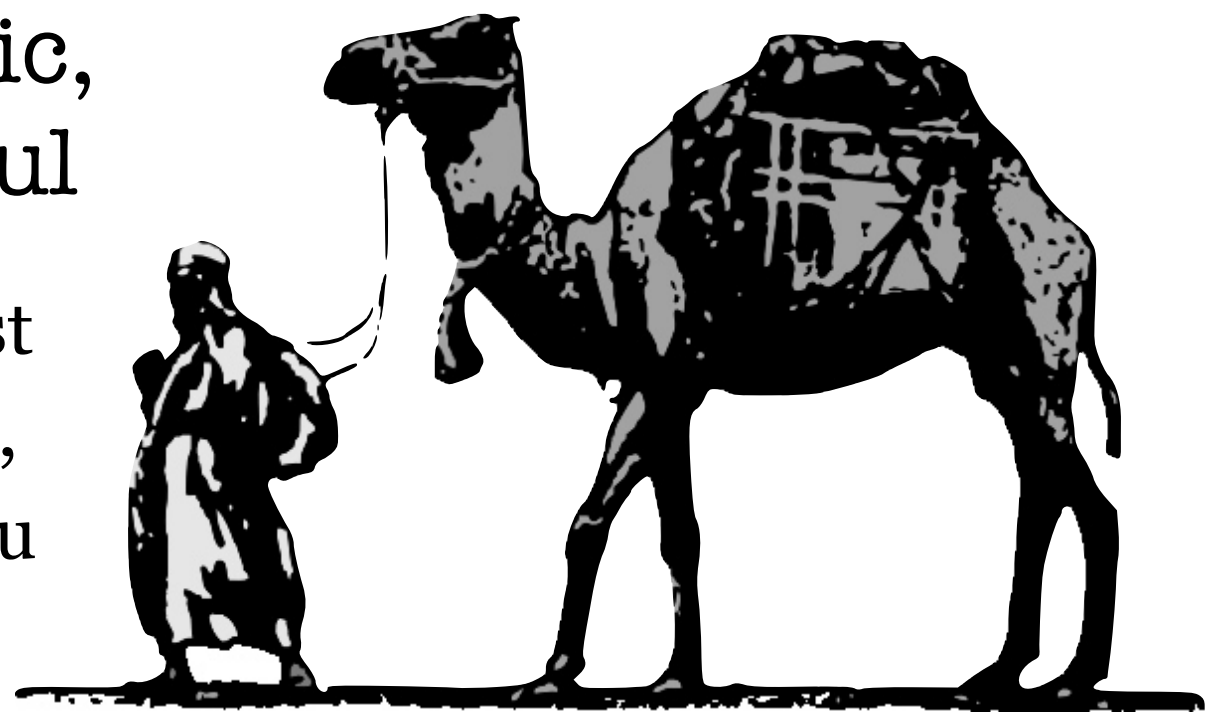
Let's say you went ten years without speaking. What would be the first words out of your mouth? Write a script of that monologue.

"If I didn't start painting, I would have raised chickens." - - Grandma Moses (an artist who didn't begin painting until she was eighty years old).

The finest paintbrushes for artist are made from the eyelashes of camels.

aesthetic (adj.)
elegant, artistic, stylish, tasteful

What is your most expressive talent, or what would you like to be able to do? Explain.



"The intelligent man finds almost everything ridiculous, the sensible man hardly anything."
- - Johann von Goethe

balderdash (n.)
nonsense or absurdity (usually refers to speech or writing)

Describe the greatest April Fool's joke you have ever heard of.

As an elaborate April Fool's joke on British television Italian farmers were shown harvesting spaghetti from trees.

"Frankly, Scarlett, it's a matter of indifference." (are the censor's proposal for Rhett Butler's famous words in Gone With The Wind.

In 1933, a Hollywood studio banned these words: dame, nursery, guts, virtuous and housebroken.

invaluable (adj.) of great value, priceless, precious

Why do some words cause such powerful reactions from people? Give an example.

"It's not what you're eating,
it's what's eating you."
- - Janet Greeson

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration permits an average of five dead insects in any four ounces of apple butter, and two rat hairs per pound of popcorn.

yaffling (archaic) (v.) eating or chewing greedily or noisily

Whats eating you?

President Jimmy Carter's mother Lillian, said that she loved all of her children, but some of them she didn't like.

"Children today are tyrants. They contradict their parents, gobble their food, and tyrannize their teachers"

- - Socrates, 42 B.C.

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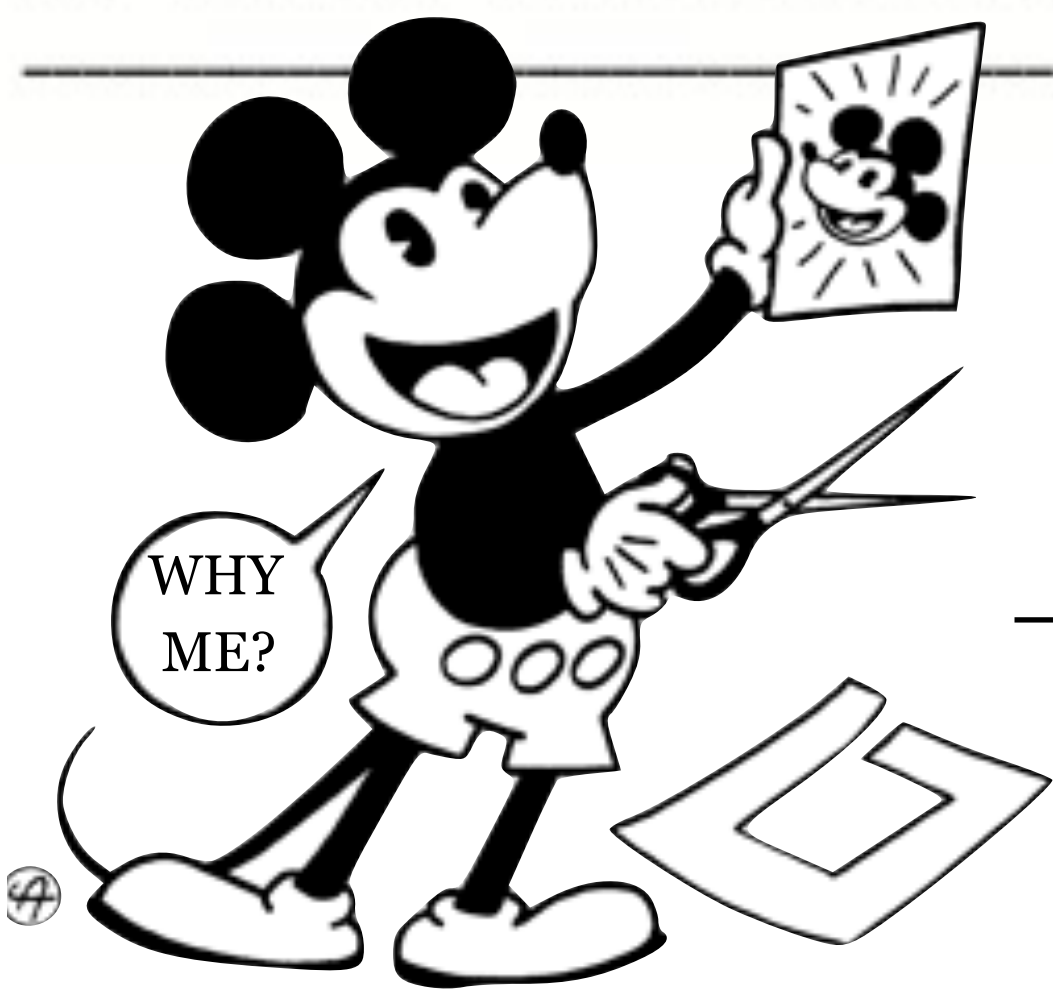
tyrant (n.) despot, dictator, autocrat

Complete this sentence: Children today are...

"I love Mickey Mouse more than any woman I've ever known." - - Walt Disney

Between 1933 and 1938, Mickey Mouse was banned from Germany by Hitler, From the Soviet Union by Stalin, and from Italy by Mussolini.



inexplicable
(adj.) unable to be explained or resolved

Why do you think Mickey Mouse was banned?

Thomas Edison,
Brad Pitt,
Katy Perry,
Nicole Kidman,
Robert Downey Jr.,
Simon Cowell,
Jude Law,
Christina Aguilera,
Chris Rock &
Elton John all
dropped out
of high school

Neither
Bill Gates
or Steve Jobs
finished
college...
just saying!

eduphobia (n.) fear of school

"I hated school. Even to this day, when I see a school bus, it's just depressing to me. The poor little kids."

- - Dolly Parton

Name five things that you would change about school. Explain.

"A little ambiguity goes a long way." - - Jerry Brown

Napoleon's handwriting was so bad that some of his letters were stolen by spies who thought they were maps of battlefields.

discombobulate (v.) to confuse, baffle, confound, boggle, perplex, bewilder, stymie

Write something that only you can read, have a partner try to read it, then explain what you wrote.

“We are not amused.” - - Queen Victoria

England’s Queen Victoria of England (1837 - 1901) had 93 dogs (at the same time).

surfeit (v.) to have a surplus or too many (or too much) of something

Let’s say you were paid one million dollars to live with 83 dogs for one year. Describe your experience.

"Millions long for immortality who don't know what to do on a rainy afternoon."
- - Susan Ertz

infinite (adj.) endless, eternal, limitless, boundless

List and describe ten creative things to do on a long cruise.

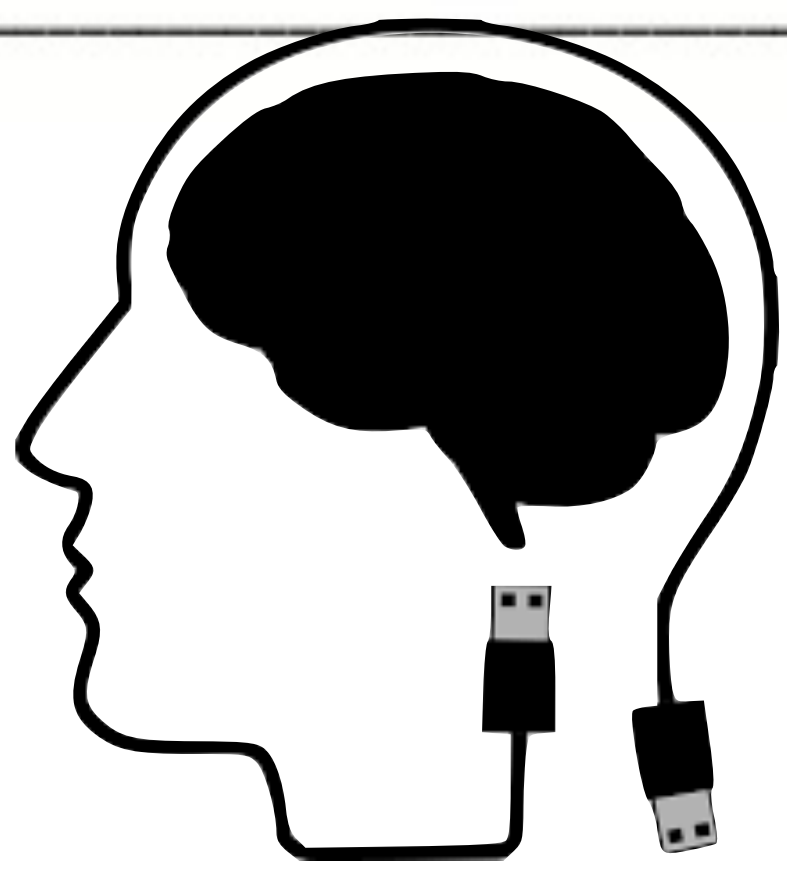
On the S.S. Luzon a small cruise ship that sails from Taiwan to the Philippines, the only entertainment on board is a deck of playing cards in each cabin. Fights often break out among bored passengers.

"The real danger is not that computers will begin to think like people, but that people will begin to think like computers." - - Sidney J. Harris

If there was a computer as powerful as the human brain, it would be able to do 38 thousand trillion operations per second and hold more than 3580 terabytes of memory.

automaton (n)
robot, droid

Who is smarter: people or computers? Tell why.



Some people in Belize create murals by pasting dead bugs onto cardboard. The creations are exported to Surinam where people use them to feed their pet iguanas.

"Follow your dreams. I am not saying it's going to be easy, but I am saying it's going to be worth it." - - Moffat Machingura

facile (adj.) easy, clear, simple, effortless

Write and explain your own version:

_____ is hard.

_____ is easy.

Then tell why.

In the Kampuchea hamlet of Pauy Pet, children outnumber adults five to one, and the minimum age to vote is seven. The mayor is nine and laws allow kids to stay up as late as they like, eat as much candy as they want & punish their parents for being bad.

"Our children are only as brilliant as we allow them to be." - - Eric Michael Leventhal

anarchy (n.) confusion or chaos due to an absence of government control

Describe how things would change if kids were in charge.

“The laziest man I ever met put popcorn in hispancakes so they would turn over by themselves.” - - W. C. Fields

In 1927, a major American meat packing firm was extremely proud to announce that they’d developed a hot dog with a zippered skin.

lundane(adj.)
dull and lazy,
humdrum, boring

Create and describe a really silly labor saving device or invention.

In 1912, the National Biscuit Company debuted three cookies: the Mother Goose, and the Veronese, which they predicted would be successful and one that described as 'two beautifully embossed, chocolate-flavored wafers with a rich cream filling.' - - the **OREO**

"Failure is inevitable, Success is elusive." - - Stephen Spielberg

cromnyomancy (n.) the process of telling fortunes using onions

Pick a vegetable or piece of fruit and use it to write a phony prediction about the future. (example: by counting the seeds in this slice of watermelon I can predict...

The Cinderella legend is known around the world, but the name of its hero varies. In Finland, she is known as Tuna.

"One thing is for sure. No child of mine will have a name like Kiefer"
- - Kiefer Sutherland

moniker (n.) name, alias, designation, title

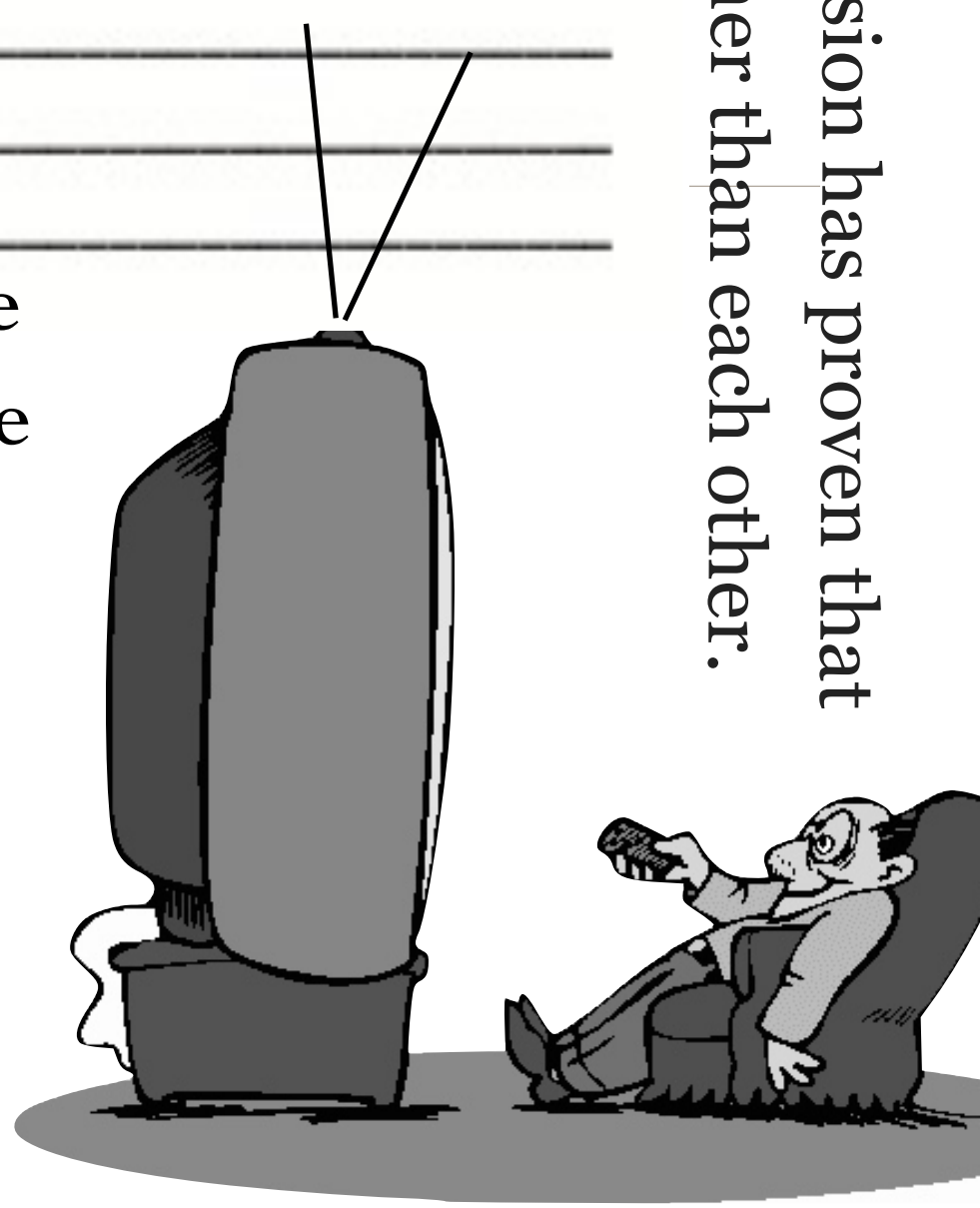
If you could have a different name, what would it be? Tell why you would choose that particular name?

"I hate television. I hate it as much as peanuts. But, I can't stop eating peanuts." - - Orson Wells

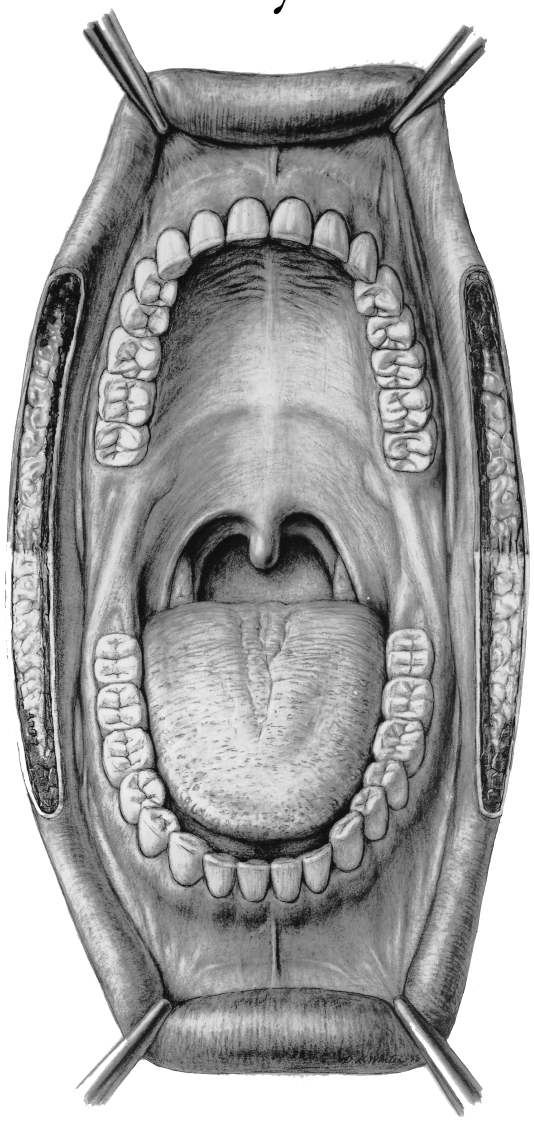
According to Ann Landers, television has proven that people will look at anything rather than each other.

mesmerize (v.) captivate one's attention, hypnotize

Describe how television mesmerizes its audience? Does television mesmerize you? Tell why or why not.



PEANUT BUTTER: Men and children prefer creamy, women prefer chunky, and each year Americans consume enough of it to cover the entire floor of the Grand Canyon.



"If you don't mind smelling like a peanut for two or three days, peanut butter is a darn good shaving cream."
- - Senator Barry Goldwater

arachibutyrophobia (n.)
fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth

Name three clever uses for peanut butter besides using it as a food.

"Whoever tells the truth is chased out of nine villages." - - Turkish Proverb

Al Capone's business card listed him as a second-hand furniture dealer. Capone was a notorious ganster in the 1920s.

veracity (n.)
truth & honesty

Think and describe what it would be like to tell the complete truth for an entire week.

The 'Eater' Jay Gwattney ate an 11 foot tall birch tree; trunk, leaves, branches and all, to win the $10,000 prize in a "*What's the most outlandish thing that you would do*" contest. Guiness Book of World Records 1985.

"People who never get carried away should be." - - Malcolm S. Forbes

farcical (adj.) absurd, outlandish, nonsensical

Describe the most outlandish thing that you would do for $10,000.

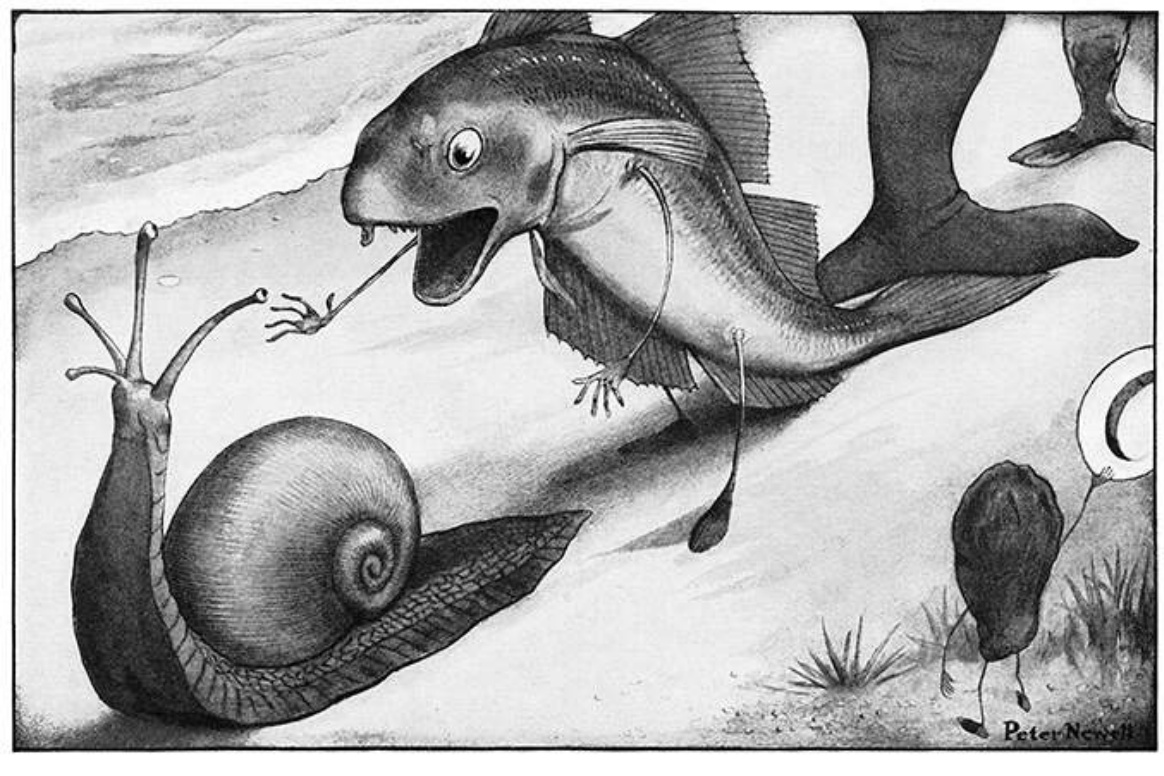
"Hurry is the curse of civilization."

- - The Chalk Garden

absquatulate (v.)
to leave suddenly
or secretly

Fast foods, quick fixes, short cuts, microwave meals, instant everything! What's the big hurry?

The word hurry was coined by Shakespeare.



“Autobiography is an unrivaled vehicle for telling people truth about other people.”
- - Phillip Guedalla

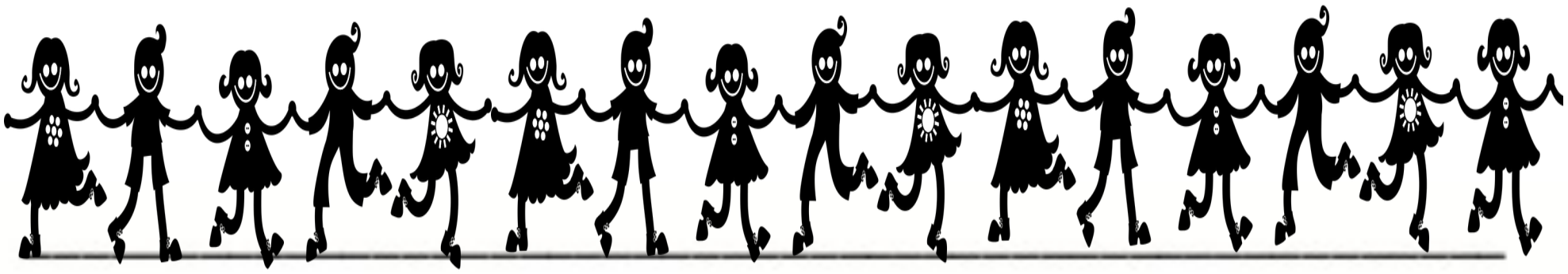
succinct (adj.)
abbreviated,
short,
quick, brief,
to the point

”James Warner Bellah’s biography of General Armstrong Custer reads simply:” To put it mildly, this was an oddball.”

Write a one sentence autobiography about your life. Read it to someone.

"My father was frightened of his father, I was frightened of my father and I am damned well going to see that my children are frightened of me." - - King George the Fifth

Paul Revere had 16 children.



consanguineous
(adj.) related by blood

Did you ever want to trade families with a friend? Make up a story about it.

“Don't be afraid of being scared. To be afraid is a sign of common sense. Only complete idiots are not afraid of anything.”

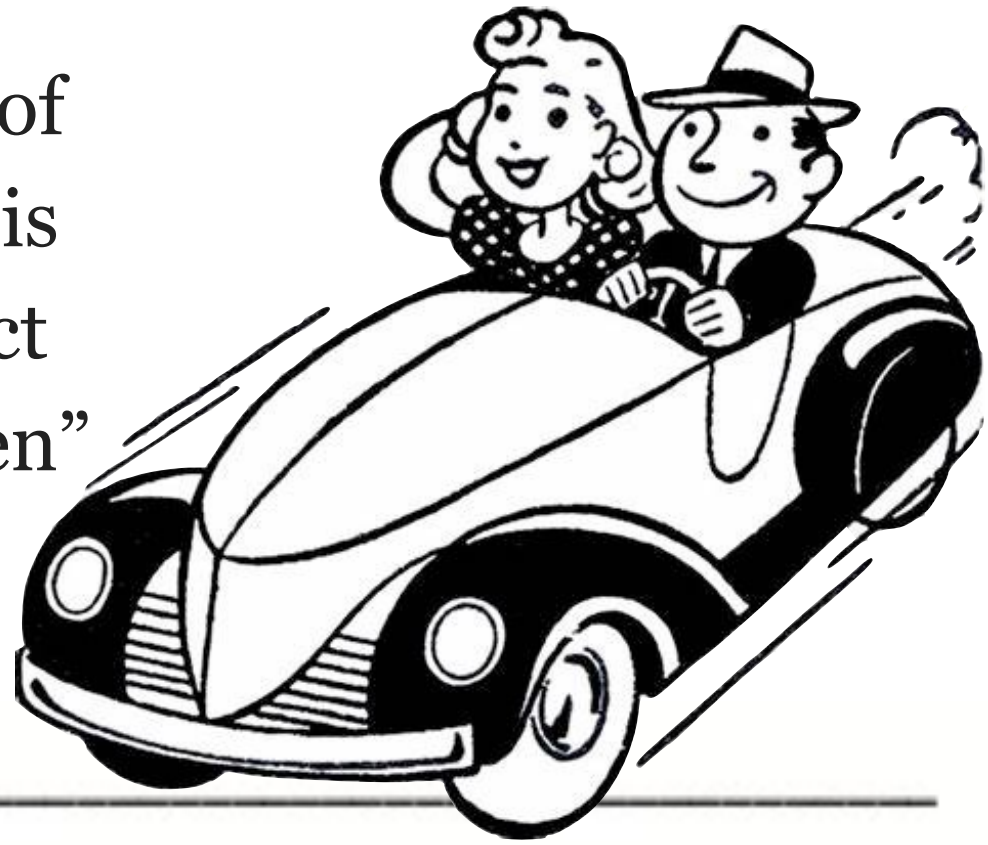
— Carlos Ruiz Zafón

Ants won’t cross a white chalk line.

trepidation (n.) dread, fear, anxiety, angst, worry, panic, alarm, horror, distress, unease

When do you get the most frightened, what are you most afraid and, how do you deal with your own personal fears?

"A characteristic of the normal child is that they don't act that way very often"
- - Anonymous



The average American motorist admits to exceeding the posted speed limit on interstate highways by between 7 and 15 miles per hour! THATS NORMAL!!

conventional
(adv.) normal, ordinary, expected

What's Normal?

"I have a simple philosophy. Fill what's empty
Empty what's full. Scratch where it itches."
-- Alice Roosevelt Longworth

philosophy (n.)
a system of
convictions, beliefs
and opinions

PUT YOUR PHILOSOPHY
OF LIFE INTO
MEMORABLE WORDS.

THE PHILOSOPHER SOCRATES COULD NOT READ OR WRITE.

"An actor is a sculptor
who carves in the snow."
- -Lawrence Barrett

PLATO'S WORST NIGHTMARE WAS THAT A PERFORMER OR ACTOR WOULD BECOME THE LEADER OF THE REPUBLIC.

thespian (n.) an actor, or character in a performance

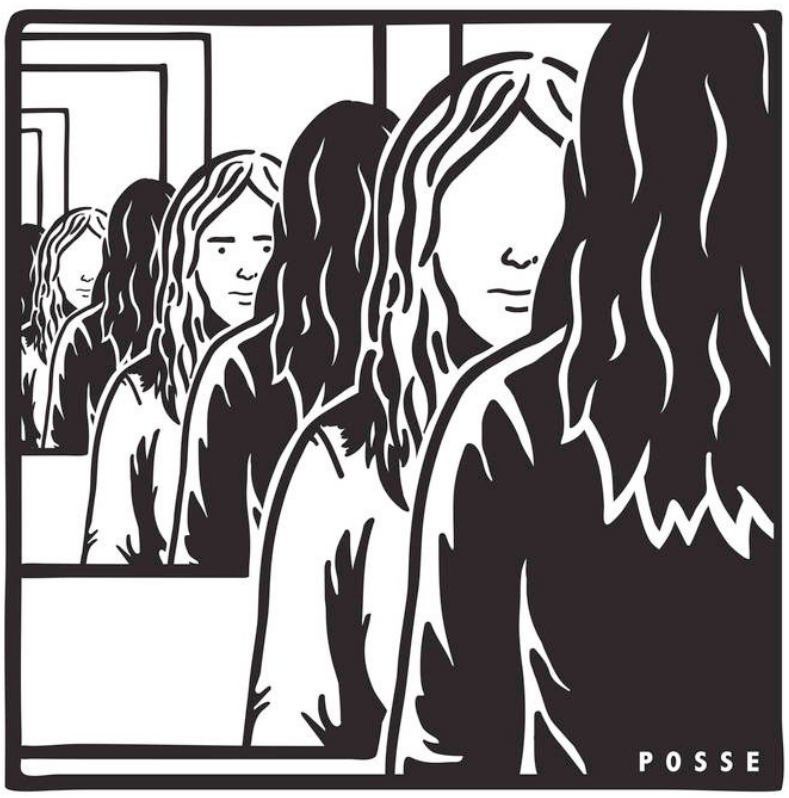
What could (possibly) go wrong if an actor was elected to power?

Because of her offbeat looks, a drama coach told a young woman named Lucille Ball of I Love You fame, "Forget it miss! you're wasting your time and mine."

"I wasn't popular at school on account of having no personality and not being pretty."
-- Sissy Spacek

pulcitrude (n.) physical beauty

Someone once said: "Beauty is only skin deep." What do you think was meant by that statement?



"Slang is just sport-model language stripped down to get more speed with less horsepower." Buffalo Evening News

wurstigkert (n.) meaning sausage-ism, slang in German for a "couldn't-care-less" attitude.

Make up five slang words and provide their definitions.

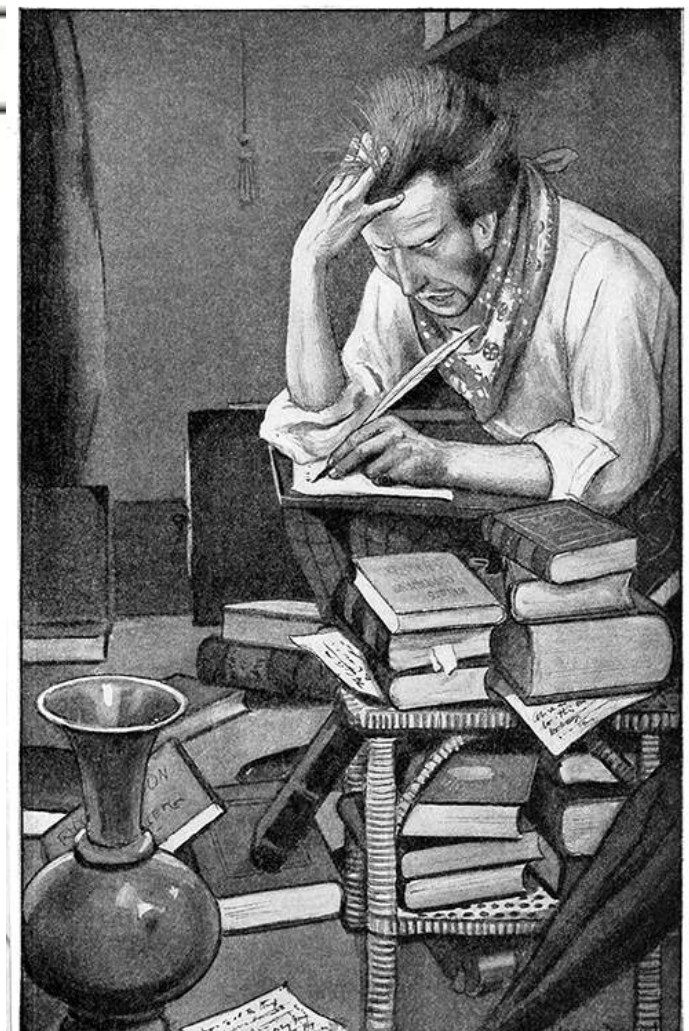
Tinkerbell's favorite expression #@%*&!, (swear word) was not used in the Disney movie and will not be used here either!

The words lullaby, melody, amaryllis, gossamer, chime, murmuring and dawn were identified by Dr. Wilfred Funk as among the most beautiful in the English language.

"The words dripped on my consciousness, sank into my being, and carried me away to the magic long ago on once upon a time." - - Peter Abrahams

mellifluous (adj.) sweet, beautiful, flowing (refers to sounds, music voices, etc.)

Beautifully and ornately scribe your choice for the five most beautiful words.



"We don't know a millionth of one percent about anything."
- - Thomas Edison

Some people believe that big feet are a sign of intelligence.

sophophobia (n.) fear or dislike of learning

What is it that you don't know that you'd like to know.

Dozens of bears are found dead in northern Canada and Alaska each summer, killed by mosquitos.
The estimated life expectancy of a naked human on the tundra in the summer is about fifteen minutes.
During those minutes approximately two-hundred-fifty-thousand mosquitos will have taken blood.

"I am rather like a mosquito in a nudist camp; I know what I ought to do, but I don't know where to start." - - Stephen Boyne

EXANGUINATE (V.) DRAIN ALL THE BLOOD FROM THE BODY

"There is no reason for any individual to have a computer in their home." - - Ken Olson

Back in the day pirates wore earrings because they thought earrings improved their vision.

avant-garde (adj.)
French for inventive, or related to the latest trend

You predict.
What's popular today that you will laugh about in 20 years?

“Boo!!!” This interjection, used to startle people, comes from the name of Captain Boo, a British fighter so ferocious that is name was used to terrify the enemy.

“I don’t like being afraid. It scares me.”
- - Hotlips Houlihan

trepidation (n.)
fear, horror,
terror, alarm

Think of your all time worst nightmare. Would you have it again for $250.00. Why or why not?

“It isn’t easy being green.”
- - Kermit the Frog

Food packaged in green sells best. Toys, however, sell best packaged in red, next in blue, and green least well.

verdant (adj.) green with lush, abundant plant life

Finish this statement: It’s not easy being _____. Tell why.

"If everyone is thinking alike, then someone isn't thinking."
- - General George Patton

Twins Ena Pugh and Lily Millward, a pair of British twins who both celebrated their 102nd birthdays by being included in *Guiness Book of World Records.*

FACSIMILE (N.)
AN EXACT COPY OR PRECISE DUPLICATE

Tell why would it be useful to have an <u>exact</u> identical twin.

It was Robert Graves who said: "The remarkable thing about Shakespeare is that he really is very good, in spite of all the people who say he is very good."

"Crude, immoral, vulgar, and senseless."

- - Leo Tolstoy on Shakespeare

sequipedalian (adj.)given to using long ponderous words, or longwinded speeches

Write a really long-winded sentence using Shakespeare-style English.

"When more and more people are out of work, unemployment results."
- - President Calvin Coolidge

If you work in any sort of office, it's likely you will spend at least 20 years of your life sitting down.

indolent (adj.) lazy–usually as a way of life, unlikely to exert oneself into action

Who makes the most money for doing the least work? Explain you decision.

Chiefs of certain South Sea Islands have the unique power of reserving certain words in their language for their personal use

"I may not agree with what you have to say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." - - Voltaire

vernacular (n.) the language accepted by a given tribe, group, or region

What is your favorite word. Tell why. (The author's favorite words are congoleum and porcupine).

The E.P.A. informs us that enough natural gas is released by the belches of ten cows to heat a small house for a year.

"Everything is worth precisely as much as a belch, the difference is that the belch is more satisfying."
- - Ingmar Bergman

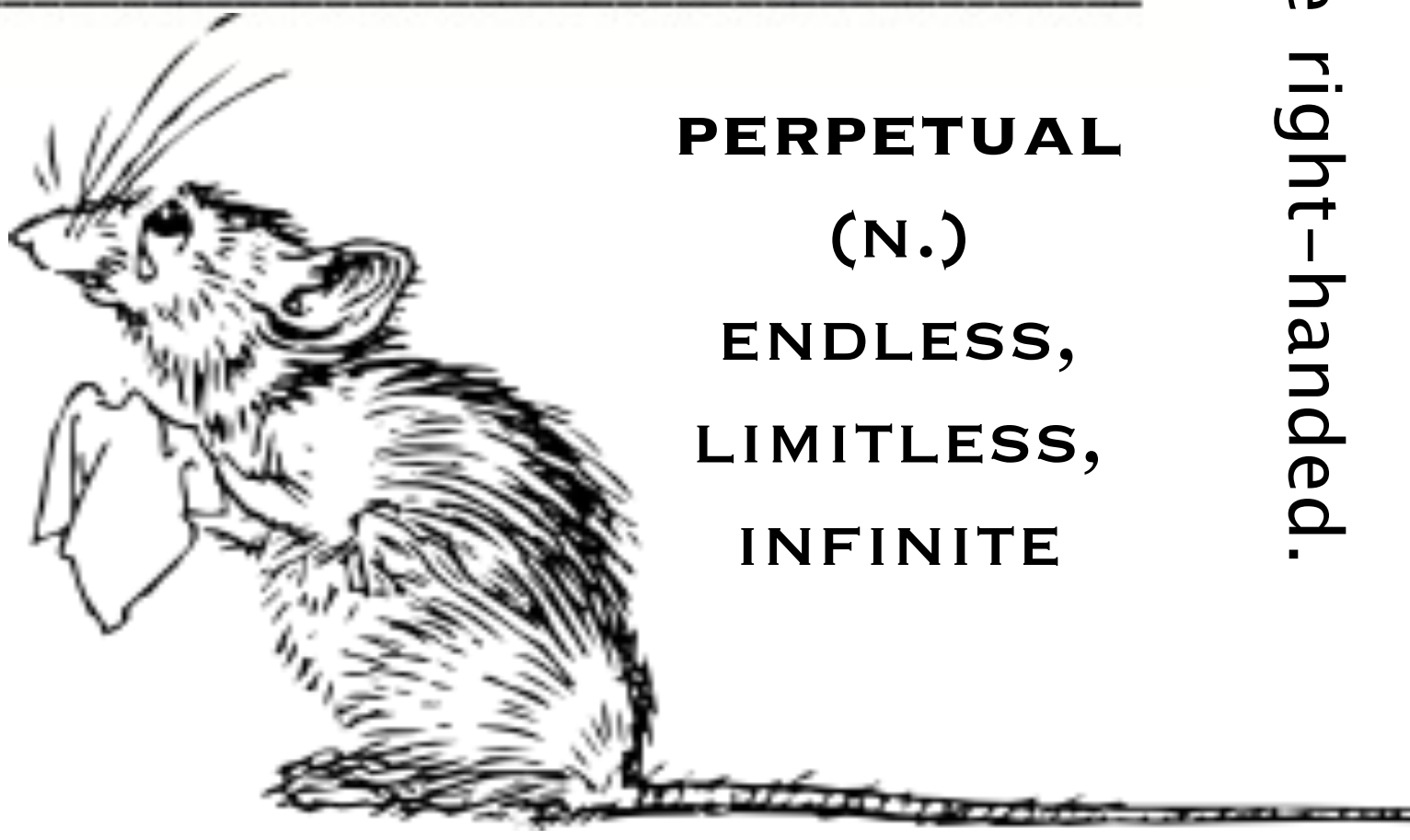
satiate (v.) satisfy, abate, quench, fulfill, assuage

Describe something that is satisfying to you but annoying to others. Examples: loud music, popping chewing gum, having headphones on when someone is trying to talk to you.

"The trouble with the rat race is that even if you win, you are still a rat." - - Lily Tomlin

Rats are 'handed' and most of them are right-handed.

Who started the rat race? Why can't you win?



PERPETUAL

(N.)

ENDLESS, LIMITLESS, INFINITE

y

Chief Crazy Horse's nickname was 'Curly' (before he was a chief).

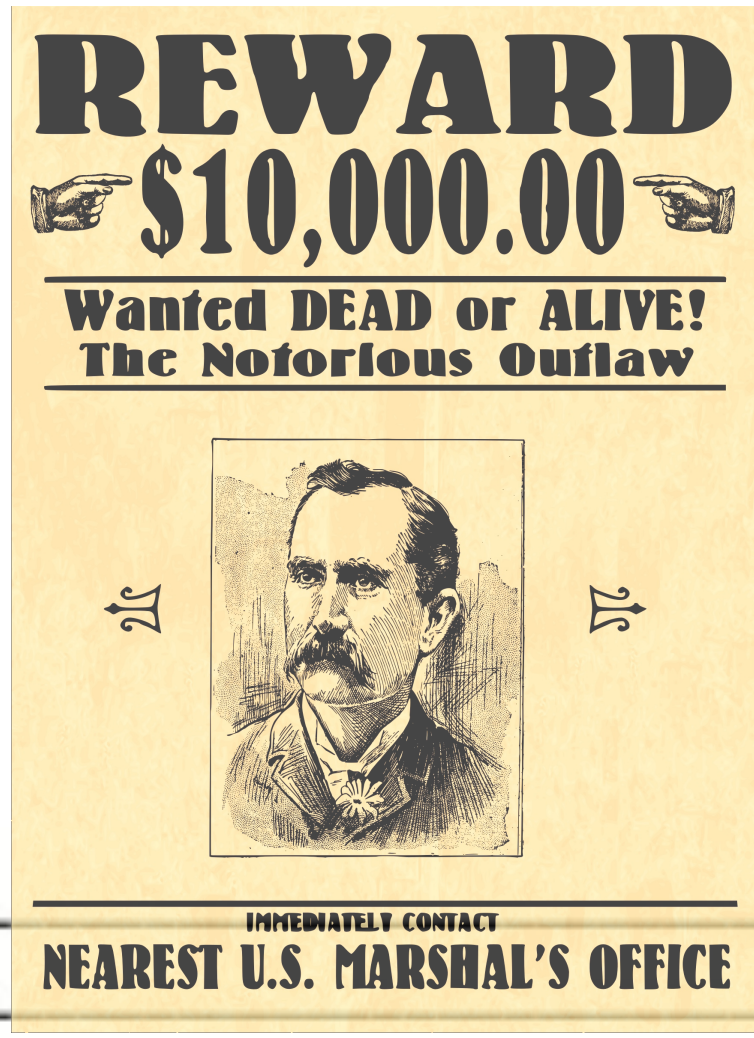
"My nickname used to be Moses - still is Moses - for a long time, and people just call me Mo for short."- - Nelly

"Tricky Dick" Nixon (former U. S. President)

sobriquet (n.) a nickname

Assign nicknames to three famous people and tell why you chose those names for them.

Kit Carson ran away from his apprenticeship in 1826. The saddleman to whom he was apprenticed was so concerned that he offered a reward of one cent for his return.



"When I see the FBI's 'ten most wanted lists,' I think if we'd made them feel wanted earlier they wouldn't be wanted now."
-- Eddie Cantor

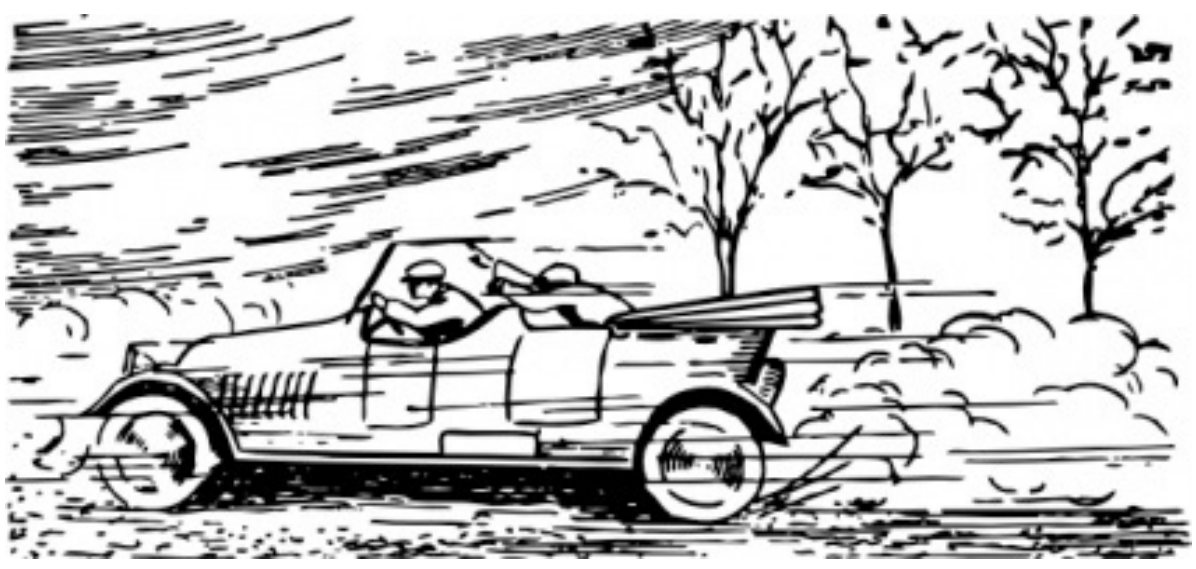
esteemed (adj.)
valued, revered, cherished, admired

Create a kind and caring wanted poster about yourself, listing and emphasizing your ten best qualities.

The first ever speeding ticket was written in 1904 in Newport , Rhode Island, for whizzing along at 20 m.p.h. five miles over the limit. Penalty - - 5 days in jail.

"There ain't no rules around here!
We're trying to accomplish something!"
- - Thomas Edison

AUDACIOUS (ADJ.) DARING,
WILLING TO BEND RULES, FEARLESS



How fast would people drive if there were no speed limits? Describe what roads and highways would look like if there were **NO** speed limits.

IN ANCIENT GREECE THE DEATH PENALTY WAS PRESCRIBED FOR ANY MAN GUILTY OF KISSING A WOMAN IN PUBLIC, EVEN IF SHE WERE HIS WIFE.

"I think people would be alive today if there were no death penalty."
- - Nancy Reagan (former first lady)

punitive (adj.) something that inflicts punishment

Are you for or against the death penalty? Why?

"The world is moved along not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of tiny pushes of honest worker." - - Helen Keller

Douglass MacArthur's mother rented an apartment across from his West Point dormitory to be sure he studied. He did and graduated number one in his class.

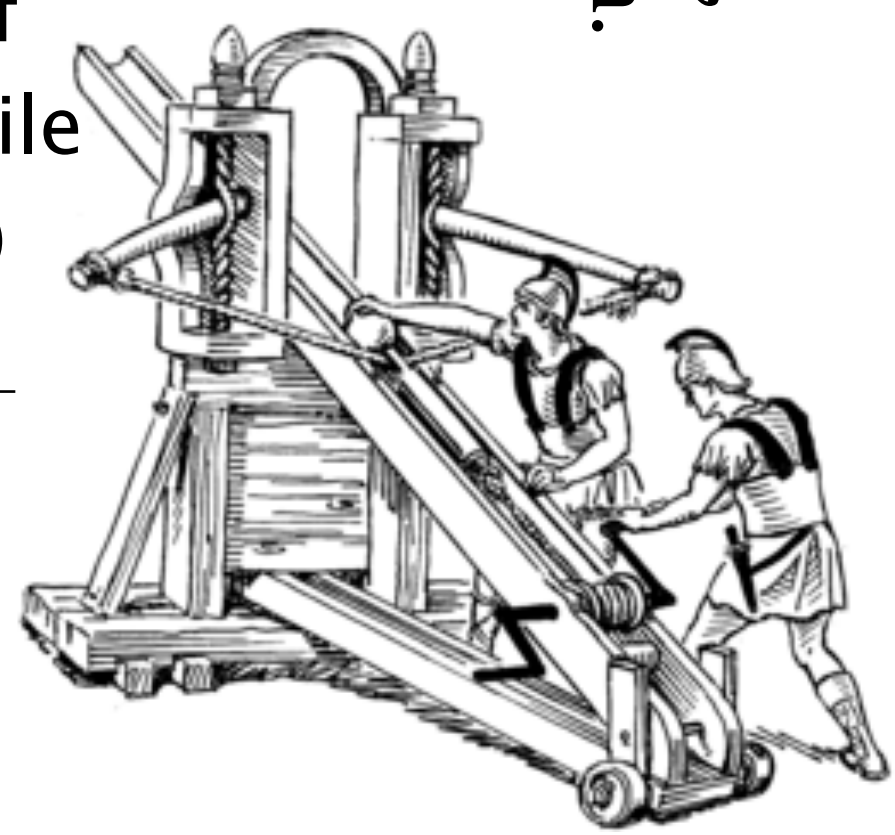
ADVOCATE (N.)
CHAMPION, ALLY, BACKER, BOOSTER, CONFIDANT

Describe a time when you've either had, needed, or became an advocate.

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."
- - President Theodore Roosevelt

Catapults were used to throw huge boulders over the walls of castles. Much more effective, though, were beehives that were catapulted in.

trajectory (n.) the path of flight followed by a projectile (rocket, arrow, snow ball)



Borrow a paper clip and create a list for many uses of it as you can think of.

Catsup was once sold as medicine!

"I hate sauce bottles. The most horrible sound in the world is of a hand smacking the bottom of a catsup bottle, only because as a result the smacking, some ugly, dark-red gooze oozes from the neck of the bottle and lays itself over some innocent fried potatoes."

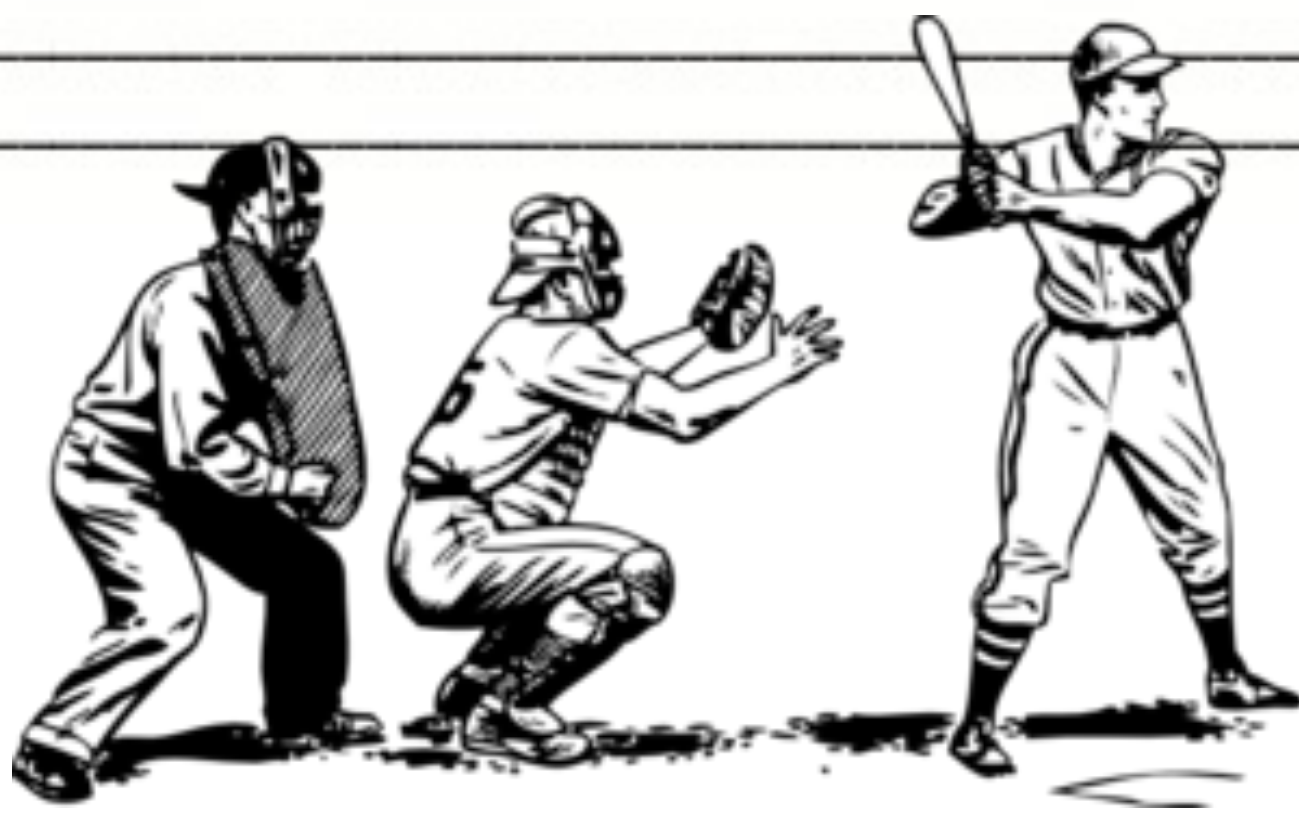
- - Alfred Hitchcock

placebo (n.) substance containing no medicine given to humor a patient or to activate a self-curing process

Create a cure for the common cold using at least 10 ingredients from the kitchen.

"Athletes have become professionalized"
- - Socrates, 402 B. C.

Babe Ruth wore a cabbage leaf under his baseball cap to keep his head cool on hot days. He changed it every two innings.



spurious (adj.) not genuine. authentic, or real

When did sports stop being games to the pros? Cite specific examples if you can.

The second day of a diet is always easier than the first. By the second day you're off it.
- - Jackie Gleason.

If you eat an 8 inch stalk of celery slowly - taking over 16 minutes to chew the whole thing, you will have an overall net loss in calories - expending more than you take in.

pinquescent (adj.)
fattening

You are a world
famous dietitian.
Write a prescription
for an absurd diet
(one week's worth of meals).

Wildlife lover Jorn J. Audubon shot as many as 100 birds a day, to use them as models for his paintings.

"It is easier to destroy than to create." - - Desperado

reprehensible (adj.) criminal, morally inexcusable

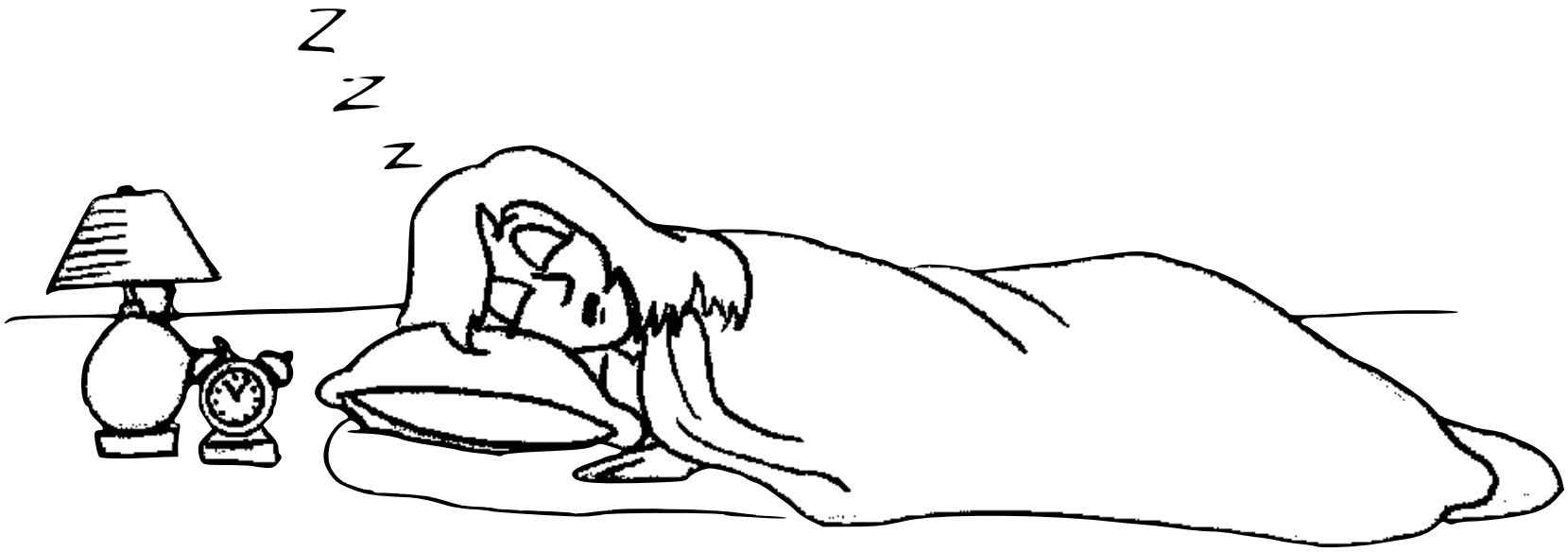
Do you believe that some human beings destroy rather than create? Explain your belief?

L. Frank Baun had two books published in 1900: The Art of Decorating Dry Goods Windows and The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.

"All good and true book lovers practice the pleasing and improving avocation of reading in bed." - -Eugene Field

List three books guaranteed to keep you awake at night. Tell why.

librocubicularist (n.) one who reads in bed



The average bed harbors about two million mites, tiny insects that live on the thousands of dead skin flakes we shed every minute.

"I love sleep; it's my favorite." - - Kanye West

taresthesia (n.) medical term for your foot falling asleep

List and describe three things necessary for a good night's sleep.

There are over 300,000 known smells. Some combinations of smells are odorless; for example the smells of gardenia and orange blossoms will cancel each other out.

"Life stinks, but that doesn't mean you don't enjoy it." - - Dustin Hoffman

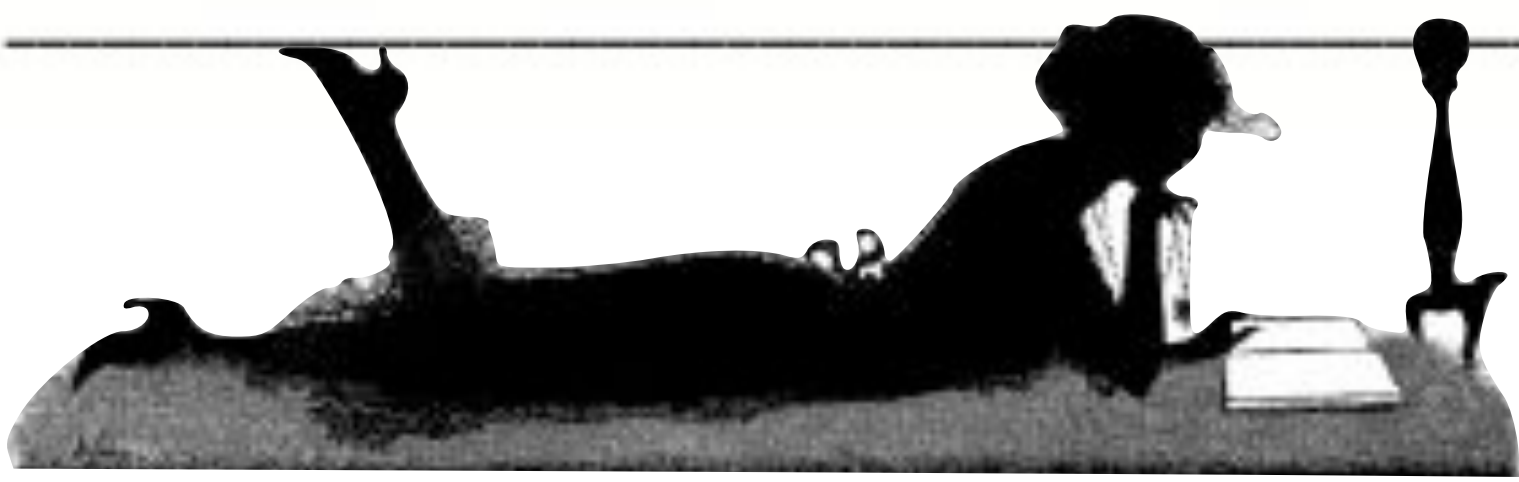
podobromhidrosis

(n.) smelly feet

Make a list of your five favorite and least favorite smells. Describe in vivid details your very favorite smell and the one that you hate the most.

"Other than my father, I relied on books. During my time in junior high I had my own private world, and my most prized possession was my library card from the Oakland Public Library." - - Hall of Fame N.B.A. star Bill Russell

A Los Angeles library patron's card was confiscated because he was using bacon strips of bacon as bookmarks.



TOME (N.) A THICK OR HEAVY BOOK, USUALLY ACADEMICALLY ORIENTED

What would the world be like if there were no books?

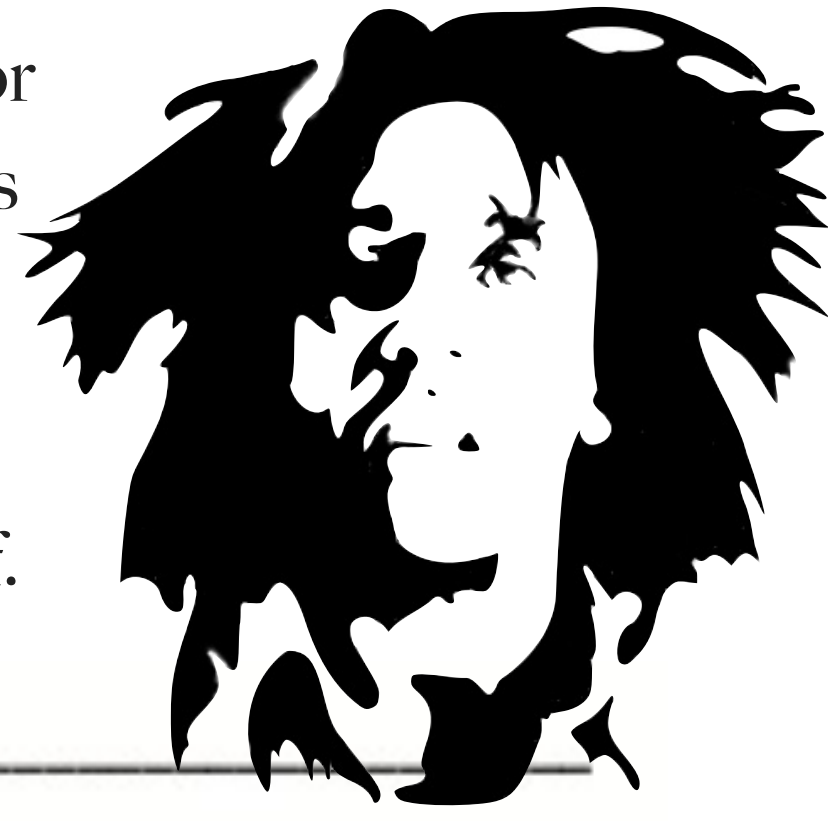
The U.S. Department of Agriculture spent $113,417 to discover that parents generally prefer to buy children's clothing that doesn't need ironing.

"My most cherished desire is to help our people come out of their routine chores and infuse in them the indefatigable spirit of adventure." - - Samina Baig

arduous (adj.) mentally or physically challenging

Name a chore that you **hate** and write a contract to trade it for a chore that you don't **hate**.

Bob Marley performed a free concert for 80,000 in Jamaica two days after he was shot in an armed assassination attempt.



"The people who are trying to make this world worse aren't taking a day off. How can I?" - - Bob Marley

eccentric (adj.) unusual, different, unorthodox

Is there someone you admire because of their eccentricity? If so, tell who and why.

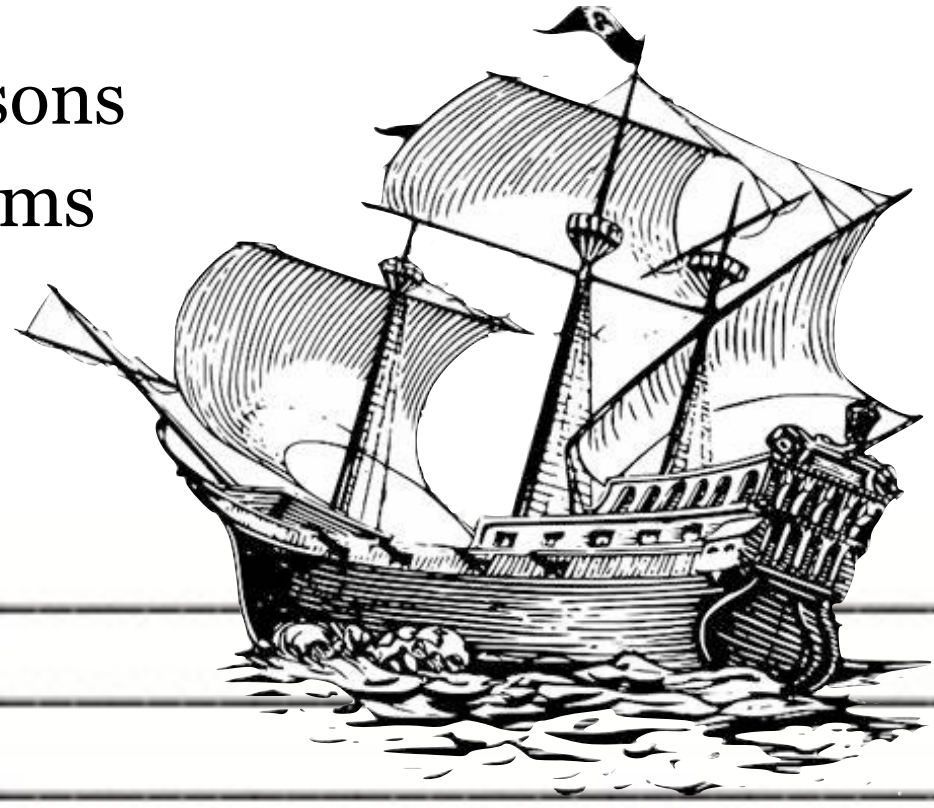
Beason's Appliance Store in Lafayette, Indiana, advertised a "wizard of savings" for its customers, but its "Yellow Brick Road Sale" was halted when a tornado destroyed the store.

"The only one who was paid less than me was the dog." -- Judy Garland
Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz

oblivious (adj.) unaware of, unknowing

Which Wizard of Oz character are you most like? Do you need a brain, a heart, courage, or to find your way home?

One of the main reasons the Mayflower Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock was because they ran out of beer.



"Life's better when it's fun. Boy, that's deep isn't it"- - Kevin Costner

abstinence (n.) voluntarily doing without something (food, drink, or certain behavior)

Why do you think some people feel they need alcohol or drugs to have fun?

"Wind warns November's done with. The blown leaves make bat-shapes, Web-winged and furious."
- - Sylvia Plath

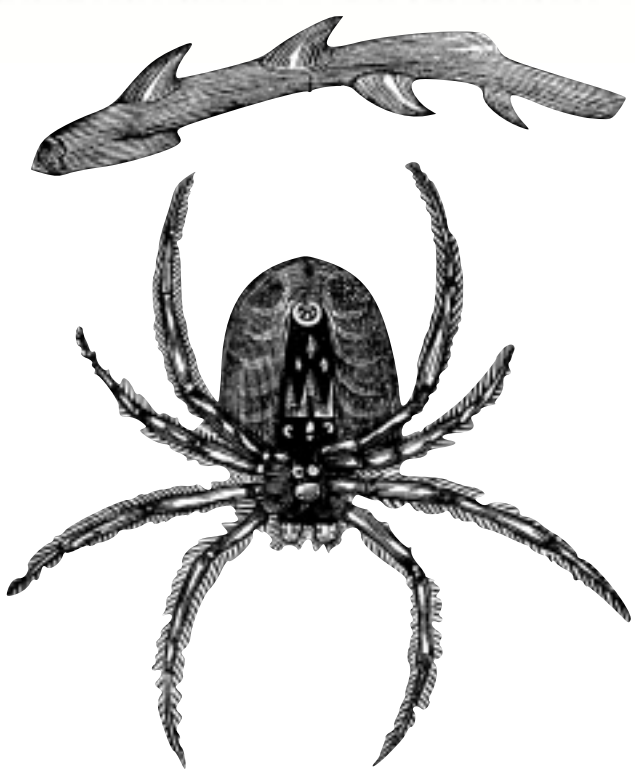
Bats curl their tails into pouches filled with bugs so they can feel while in flight.

groak (v.) to stare at someone who's eating and hope that they'll share.

You are going on a three day hike and must carry all of your food in a back pack. What will you take. Write a menu.

"You don't get to choose how you're going to die or when."
You can decide how you're going to live now." - - Joan Baez

The normal lifespan of a spider is four days.



longevity (n.)
long lasting,
living to a
great old age

Imagine that you have the lifespan of a spider.
What do you want to do? (be quick)

Glass gets stronger the longer it stays under water.
It is the only substance known to do so.

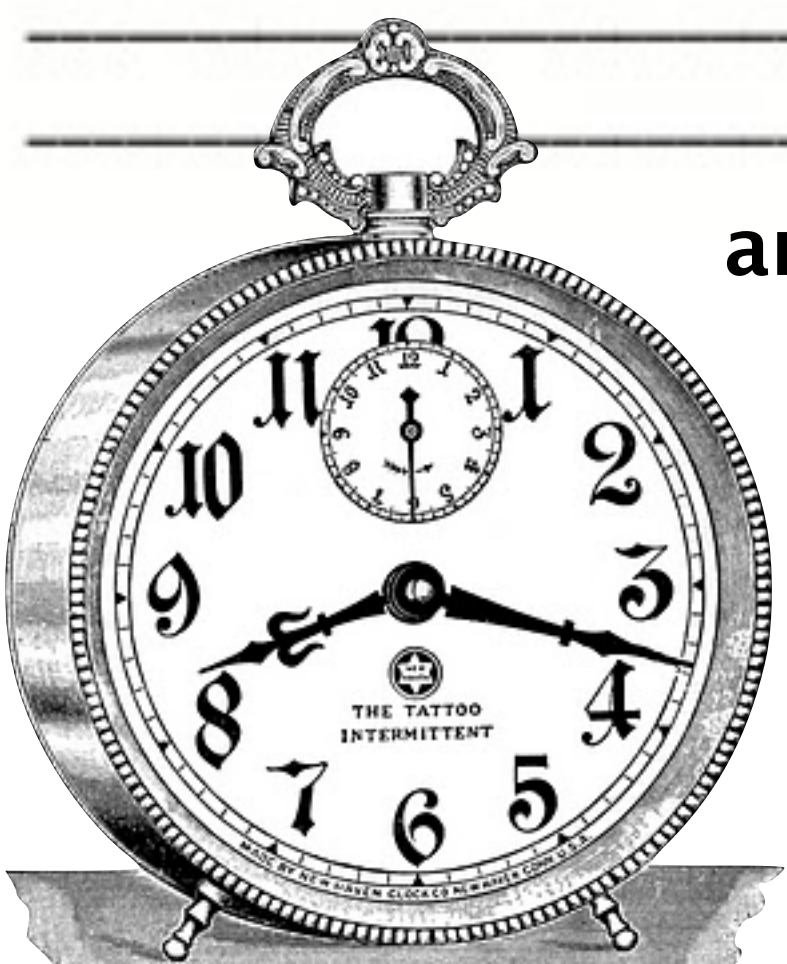
"You can't be brave if you've only had wonderful things happen to you."
- - Mary Tyler Moore

resilience (n.) willpower, persistence, the ability to bounce back.

Explain why you think adversity makes people stronger.

"Be pleasant until ten o'clock in the morning and the rest of the day will take care of itself." - - Elbert Hubbard

Leonardo da Vinci invented the alarm clock--curses! Ahh, but his clock awakened the sleeper by gently rubbing the feet.



amiable (adj.) pleasant, friendly, easy to get along with

Are you a morning person? Describe a typical Monday morning to illustrate the point.

"When I was in my early and mid-teens, my style changed constantly. My clothing was inspired by a yoga teacher, a flower child, a pirate... name it." - - Maya Hawke

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debonair (adj.) charming, suave, sophisticated (looking)

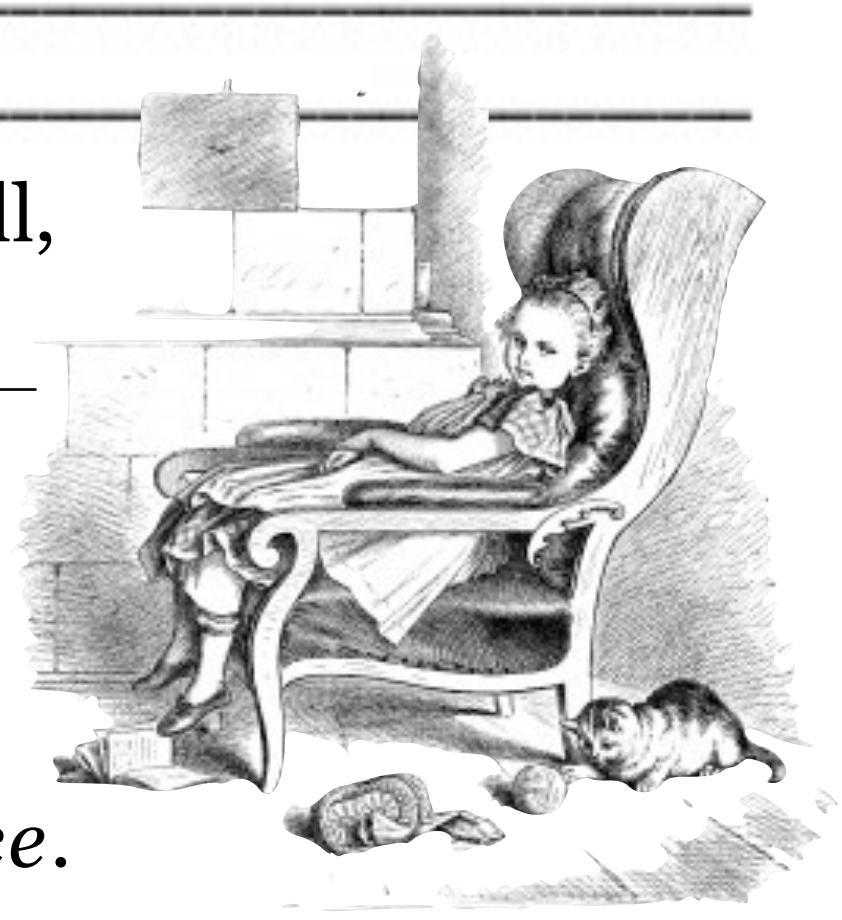
Write a brief description of your favorite outfit. Consider - will you be wearing clothes in that style in 20 years. Tell why or why not.

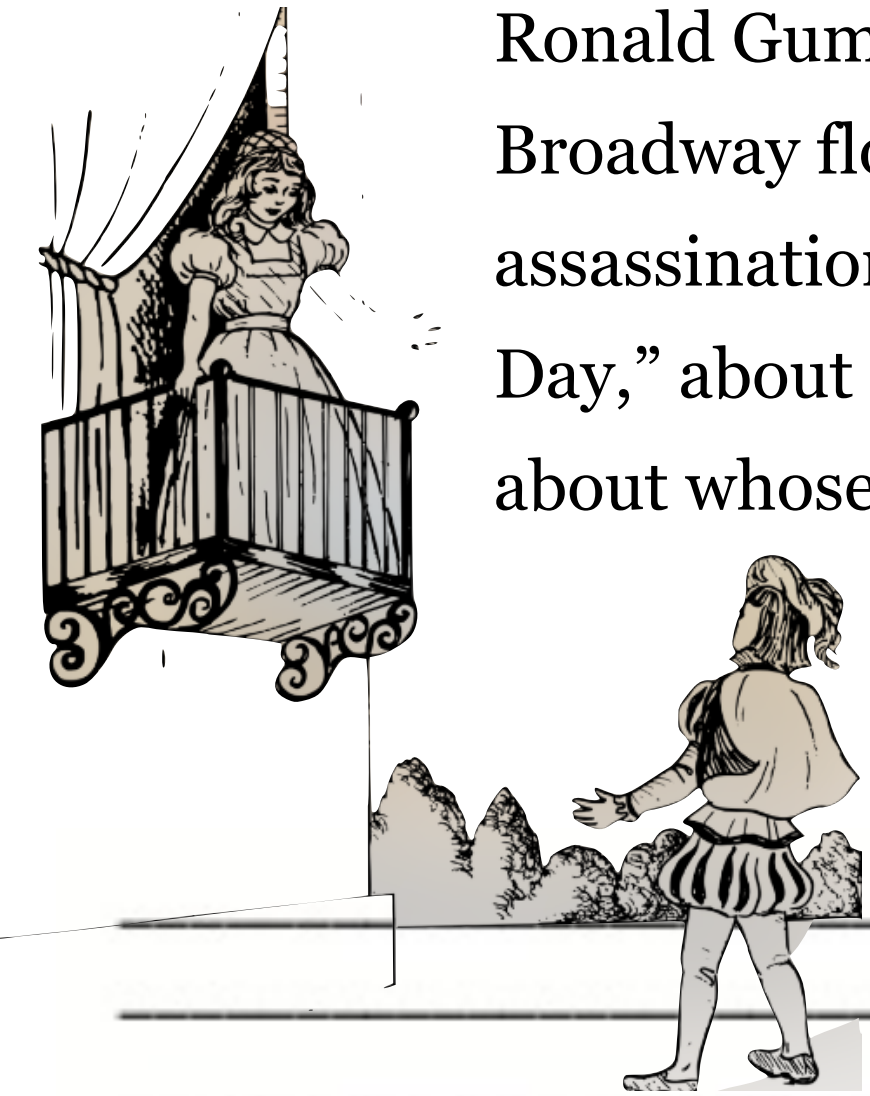
Leonardo da Vinci recommended staring at a bare stucco wall and studying its random texture when no subject matter or inspiration presented itself.

"I don't wait for moods. You accomplish nothing if you do that. Your mind must know it has got to get down to earth."
-- Pearl S. Buck

procrastinate (v.) stall, postpone, delay

What *price* do people pay to procrastinate? Describe a time when you had to pay the *price*.





Ronald Gump, has produced such memorable Broadway flops as “Lee!,” a musical about the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and “Trash Day,” about a family torn apart by an argument about whose turn it is to take out the garbage.

superlative (adj.) of the highest possible quality

“To be different in business, be daring, be first, be different.”
- - Merchant

Write the plot for you own flop musical.

"I hate music, especially when it's being played."
- -Jimmy Durant

euphonious (adj.)
pleasing to the ear

The national anthem of Greece has over 158 verses.

Write a modern version of your national anthem.

"Life is what happens while you are making other plans." - - John Lennon

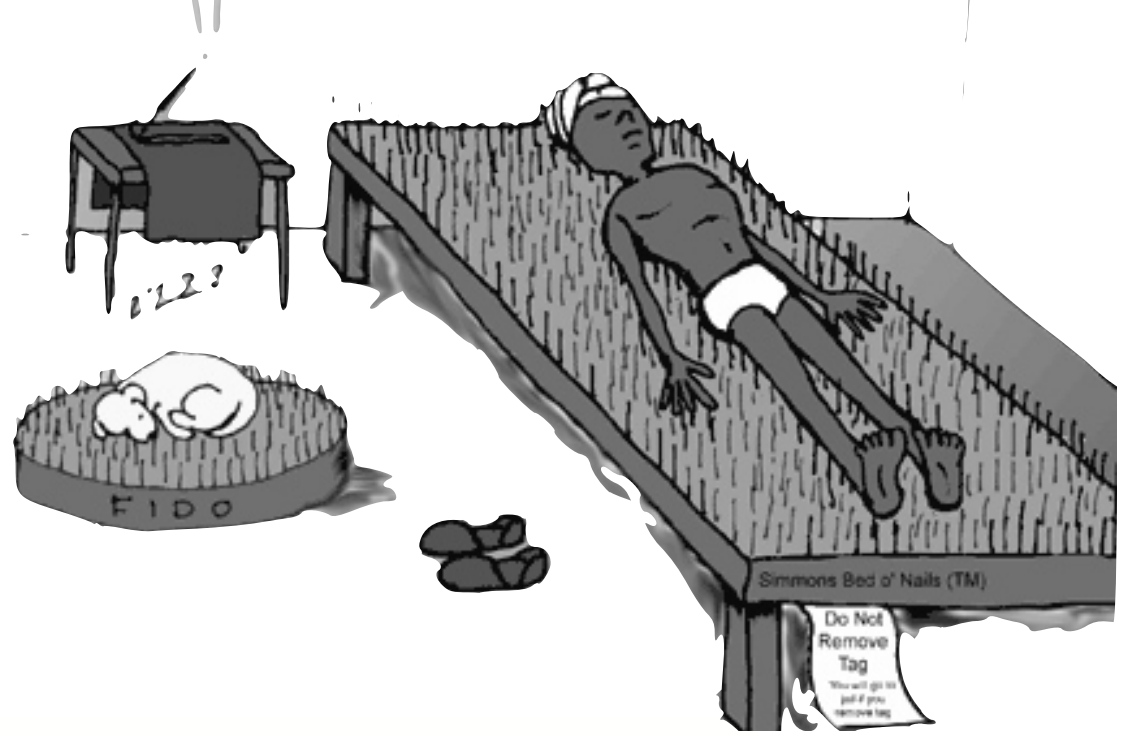
FIGURE No. 559 T.—MEN'S TENNIS SUIT.

kismet (n.) destiny, luck, providence, fate

If it weren't for your life getting in the way of what you really want to do, what would you be doing instead right now?

In 1954, Fidel Castro was voted Cuba's best schoolboy athlete. Years later, he was turned down after being given a tryout with the Washington Senators.

"The greater part of happiness or misery depends on our dispositions and not our circumstances."
- - Martha Washington



A small company on Madras, India, makes furniture exclusively for holy men: chairs, desks, couches, and toilet seats which are all covered with nails.

dispositon (n.) one's usual mood or temperment

What are you disposed to be, to become or to achieve?

"In spite of everything,
I shall still believe that
people are really good
at heart." - - Anne Frank

---

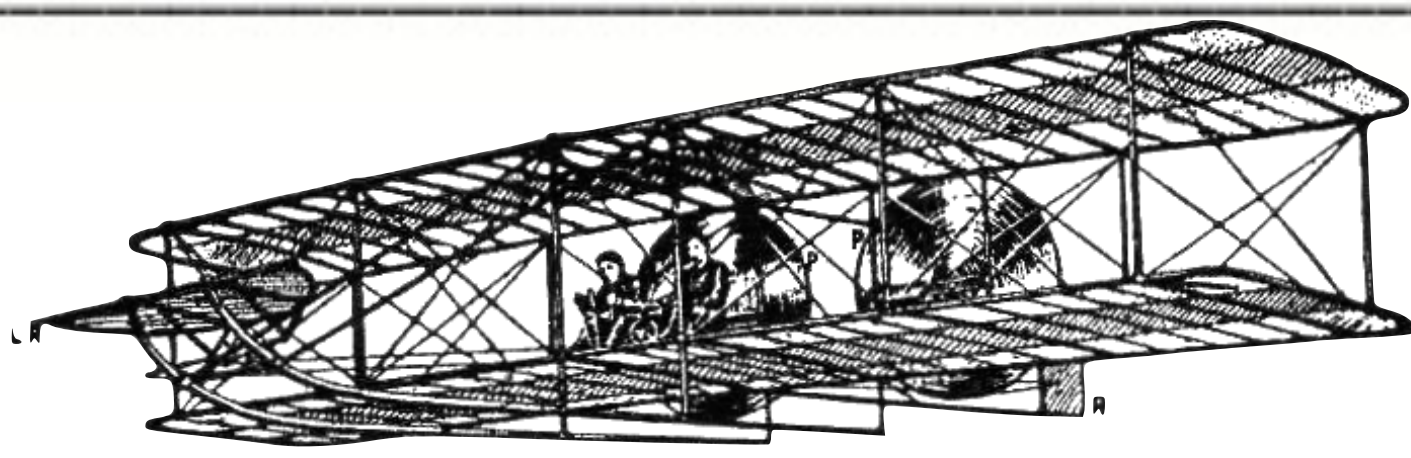
genocide (n.) the deliberate extermination of a race of people

The Arawak Indians were exterminated by Columbus. The only word left from their language is "hammock."

Speculate about why evil people seem to dominate media coverage of historical or modern events.

"The nail that sticks up
gets hammered down."
- - Japanese proverb

Aviator Orville Wright was expelled for mischievous behavior from his 6th grade school in Richmond, Indiana, in 1883.



Who gets hammered down in today's society? Why?

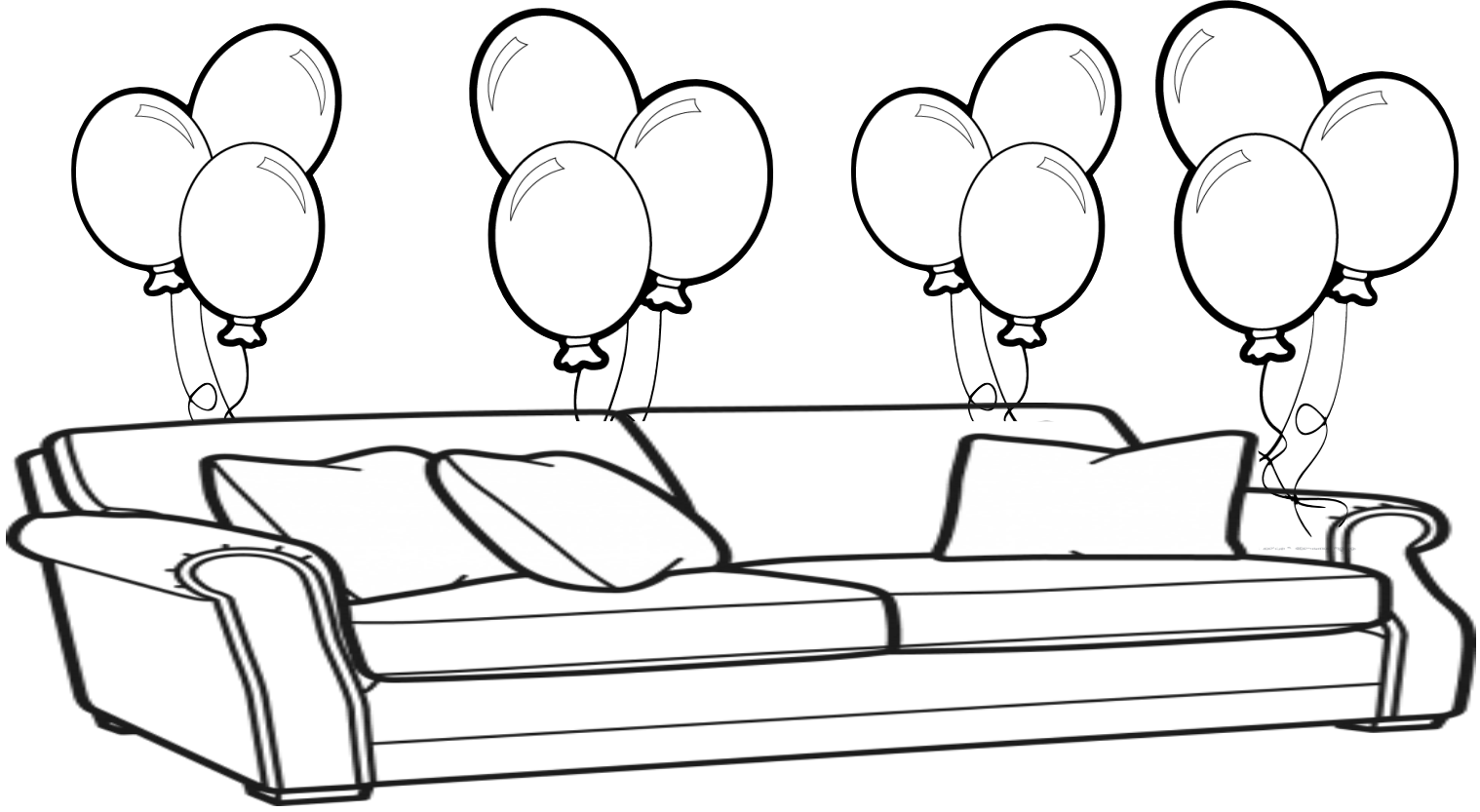
bumptious (adj.)
pushy, overly aggressive

"There is a correlation between the creative and the screwball. So we must suffer the screwball gladly."
- - Kingman Brewster

Microwave hair dryers used in Hong Kong salon can dry a head of hair in 90 seconds. All pins, curlers and such must be removed or they will melt or explode.

harebrained (adj.) screwball, a foolish or stupid idea

Tell or illustrate the story of the microwave hairdryer that ran amok.



Another failed invention is the lighter-than-air sofa that floats to the ceiling when not in use.

"Nothing is too wondrous to be true." - - Michael Faraday

WONDEROUS (ADJ.) MIRACULOUS, MARVELOUS, SPECTACULAR

Design, draw or describe a wondrous contraption that is too good to be true.

Jeanette Rankin, the nation's first Congresswoman, was the only member to vote against declaring war against Germany in 1917.

A science career for women is now almost as acceptable as being a cheerleader."
- - Myra Barker

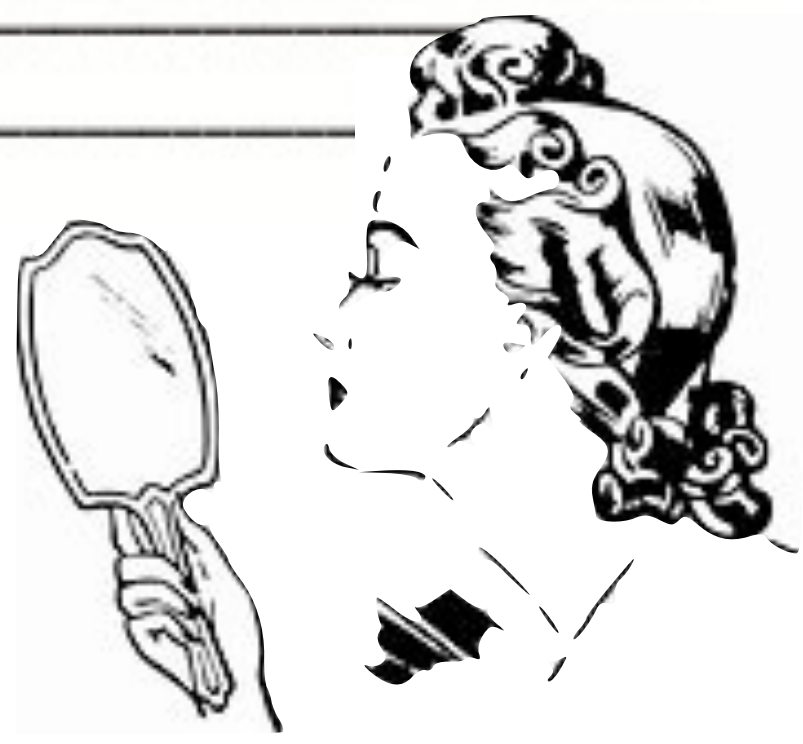
gynocracy (n.)
government
headed by women

At your age
is life easier for
males or females?
Explain you opinion.

Queen Elizabeth I did not wash her face. In fact, in 1603, at the time of her death, she had one inch accumulation of powder on her skin, she hand't washed her face in more than a decade.

"My first job (before becoming an actor) was applying makeup to corpses in a mortuary." --Whoopi Goldberg

vanity (n.)
pride,
arrogance,
egotism,
conceit.



What are people 'making up' for when they use (too much) makeup?

"If you are happy, you can always learn to dance." - - Balinese saying

Sir Charles Halton (1549 - 1591) was made Lord High Chancellor of England because he danced so well.

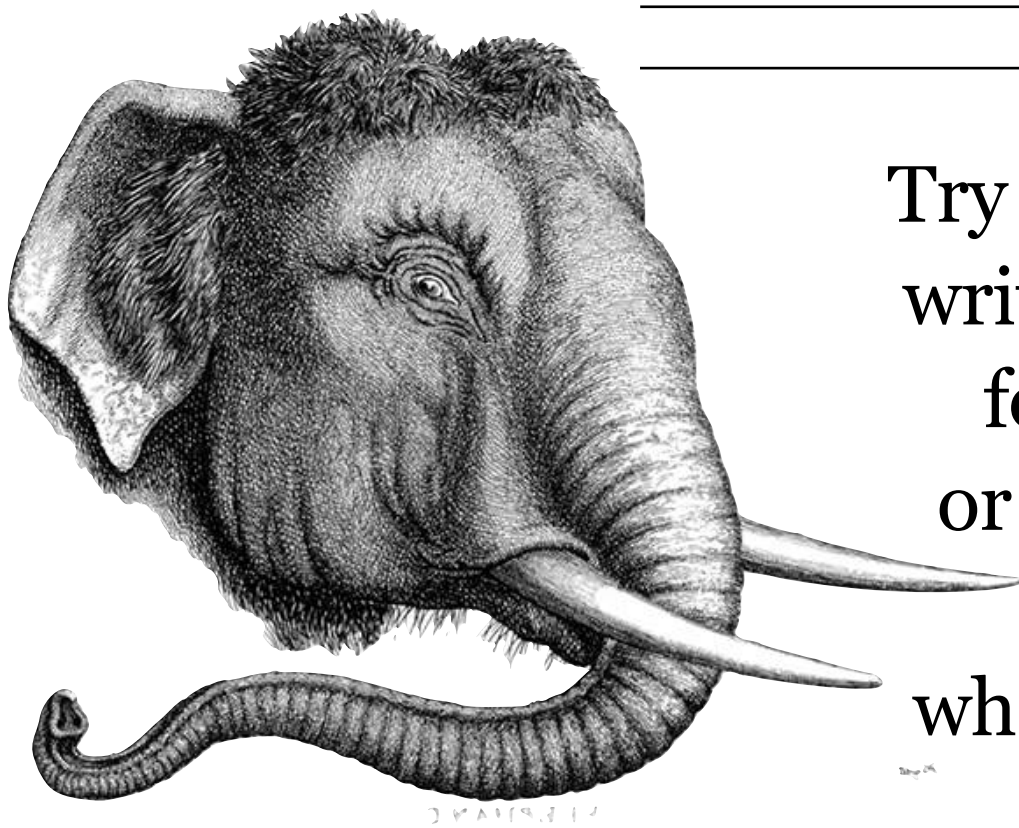
Besides dancing what sort of things can you learn when you are happy? List ten.

choreography (n.) the art of creating or arranging dance or ballet

Albert Einstein often forgot where he lived and had to paint his front door red. He became so lost in thought that once he walked into a manhole. He never learned how to drive a car.

"Everything has been thought of before, but the problem is to think of it again." - - Johann W. von Goethe

loganamnosis (n.) a mania for trying to recall forgotten words



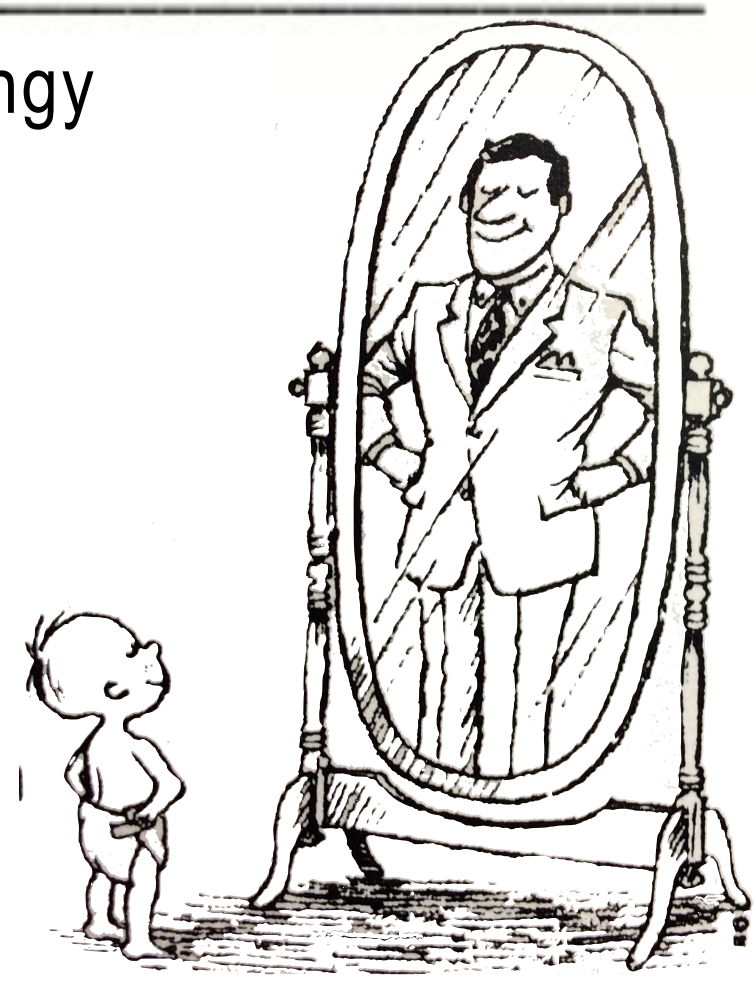
Try to remember to write a story about forgetfulnesss or what happens to people who forget things.

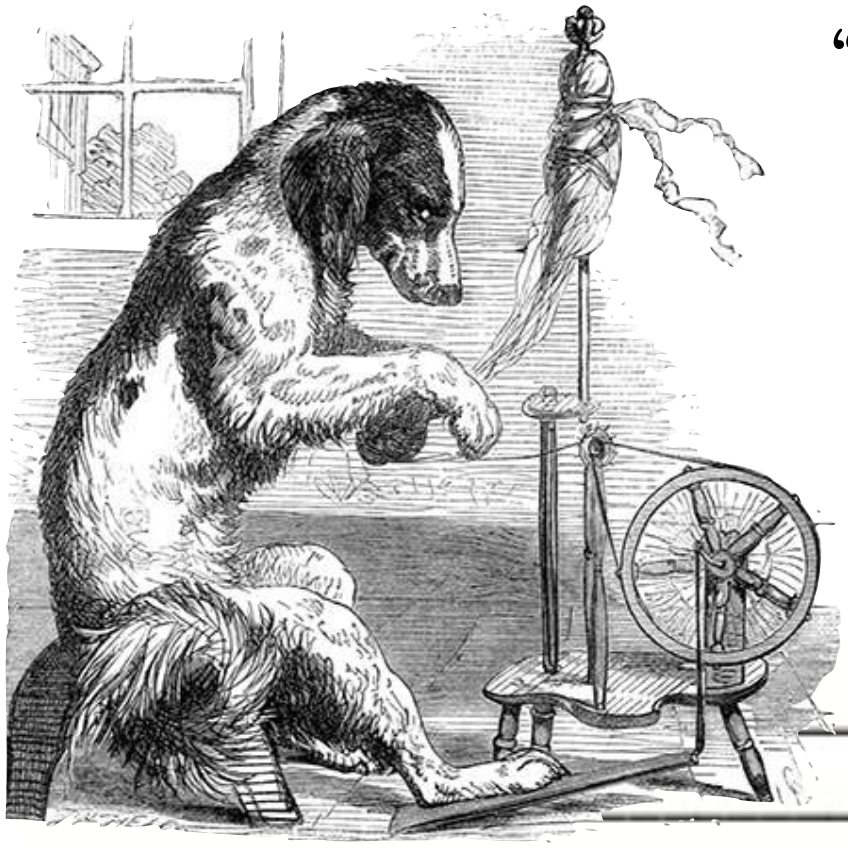
"Children of the poor should work for part of the day when they reach the age of three." - - John Locke, 1697

The first minimum wage in the United States was established un 1938. It was twenty-five cents an hour.

mingy (adj.) mean and stingy

At what age is it appropriate for young people to go to work? What work should they be paid to do? What is a fair working wage for them? Explain your answers.





"The more I see of people, the more I like dogs."
- - Madame de Stael

affinity (n.) liking, fondness, appreciation

King Charles II loved his spaniels. He allowed them to give birth and nurse their many litters in his bedroom and the stench was said to have driven away many courtiers.

Why do dogs and humans bond?
Tell a great canine pet story.

"Summer afternoon,
summer afternoon,
to me those have always
been the most beautiful words
in the English language."
- - Henry James

Summer is the most hazardous season of the year.

perilous (adj.) unsafe, dangerous, precarious

Write a public service announcement or draw a safety poster warning of the potential dangers of summer activities.

SAMUEL PEPYS, A 17TH CENTURY DIARIST, WROTE IN A PRIVATE SHORTHAND THAT WASN'T DECIPHERED UNTIL 1825.

"If they give you ruled paper, write the other way."
-- Juan Ramón Jiménez

decipher (v.) decode, interpet

WRITE ANOTHER WAY.

Hard work and hope are the keys. Brad Pitt worked as a giant chicken in front of El Poco Loco, and Sinead O'Connor was a singing kiss-a-gram French maid in Dublin.

"When I look at the future, it's so bright, it burns my eyes." --Oprah Winfrey

aspire (v.)
strive, aim,
wish, hope
or desire
to achieve
big things

Describe a time when you achieved what you aspired to achieve.

Cher dropped out of school in the eleventh grade and didn't learn to read until she was eighteen. She was diagnosed as dyslexic at thirty.

"If I couldn't read, I couldn't live." - - Thelma Green

dyslexia (n.) impairment of the ability to read

Write a short story about anything, but write it upside down and backwards. Then ask someone to read it to you.

It was believed that if you walked around ancient Greece with the udder of a hyena tied to your left arm, women were guaranteed to fall madly in love with you.

"Love is a grave mental disease."
- - Plato

smitten (adj.) to strike sharply (usually refers to being struck by love)

Write a ridiculous prescription for getting two people to fall in love.

"It is hard to believe that a person is telling the truth when you know that you would lie if you were in their place."

- - H.L. Mencken

In thirteenth century France anyone convicted of lying had their upper lip and nose cut off.

prevarication (n.) lie, fib, untruth, fabrication, ruse

Why do you think the French have such a harsh penalty for lying?

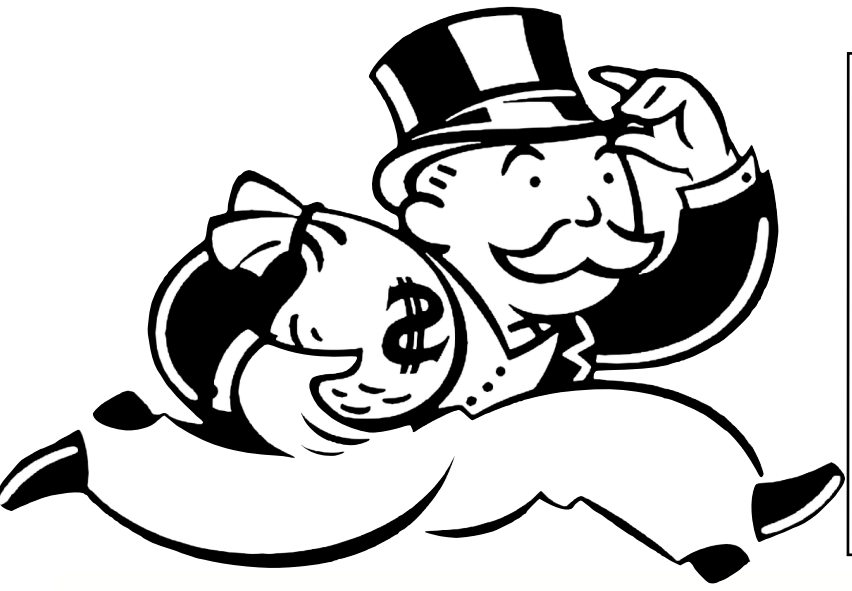
The human brain uses 14 watts of power when it is engaged in deep though.

"The only reason some people get lost in thought is because it's unfamiliar territory." – – Paul Fix

ruminate (v.) to ponder or think about something

You are going to spend 24 hours lost in thought -where are you going?

John D. Rockefeller (one of the richest men of his time) used to give workers at his estate a five-dollar bonus at Christmas, and then dock them for not working on Christmas.

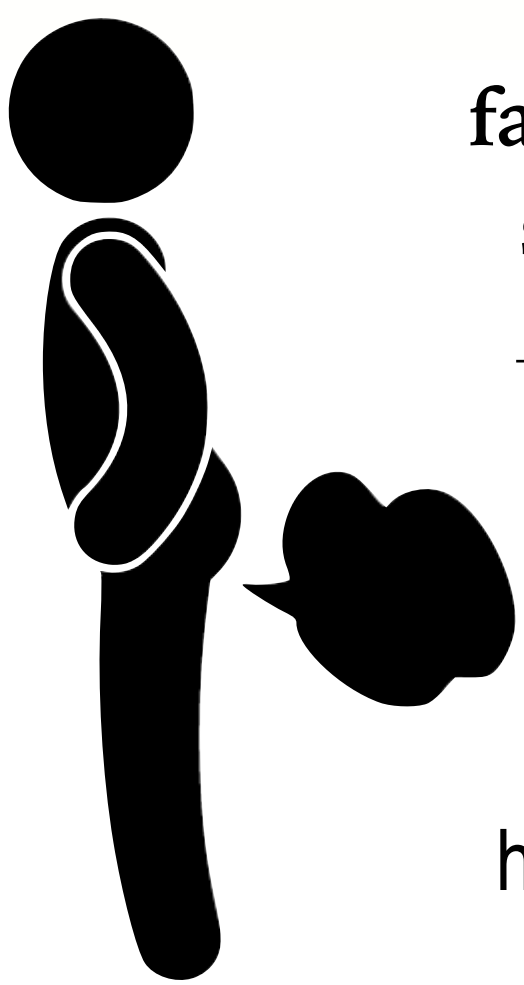


"If it weren't for villains, there'd be no heroes."
- - Sir Peter Ustinov

PARSIMONIOUS (ADJ.) STINGY, CHEAP

Tell or make up a storty about the biggest cheapskate ever.

"I got the job because I could belch on cue."
- - Charles Bronson (about is first movie job)



faux pas (n.) French for false step, blunder,blooper, goof

Describe the most embarrassing bodily function experience you have had or witnessed.

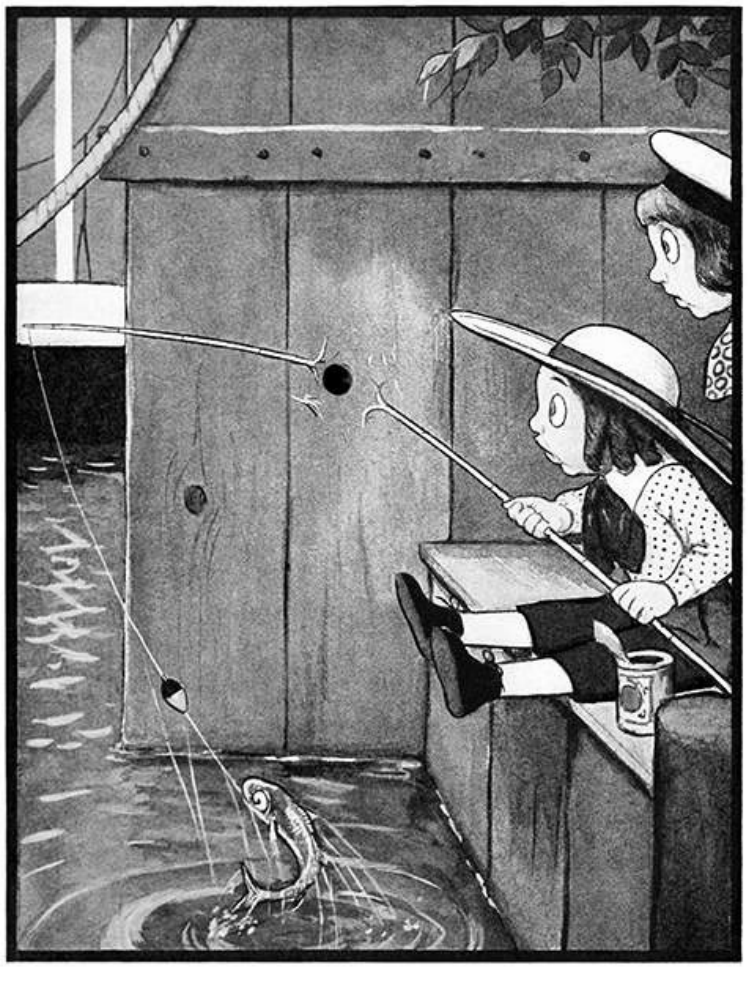
Joseph Pugol, known as "Le Ptomaine," was a legendary French Musical farter.

It was Douglas MacArthur who said: "People grow old by deserting their ideals. You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt, as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear, as young as your hope, as old as your despair."

"Youth is always too serious; just now it is too serious about frivolity
- - G. K. Chesterton

frivolity (n.) folly, foolishness, lacking seriousness, nonsense

What should young people be more serious about?



Before 1859, baseball umpires sat behind home plate in a rocking chair.

"If people don't want to come out to the ballpark nobody's going to make them." - - Yogi Berra

non sequitor (n.) silly, humurous and nonsensical statement

Write five nonsense statements. For instance: If my mom wants me to take out the garbage, she can do it herself.

“At first, they'll only dislike what you say, but the more correct you start sounding the more they'll dislike you.” - - Criss Jami

“It was Chief Joseph who said: “I am tired of talk that comes to nothing.”

opine (v.)
to state or voice your opinion

Strongly state your opinion about something that matters to you.

The most disgusting flavor of ice cream, some experts say is, chocolate salmon suprise. The owners of the Hawaiian shop that features the concoction keeps a bucket handy in case customers get ill.

"Never eat more that you can lift."
- - Miss Piggy

repugnant (adj.) disgusting, foul, repulsive, revolting

Create five new, exciting and completely disgusting ice cream flavors.

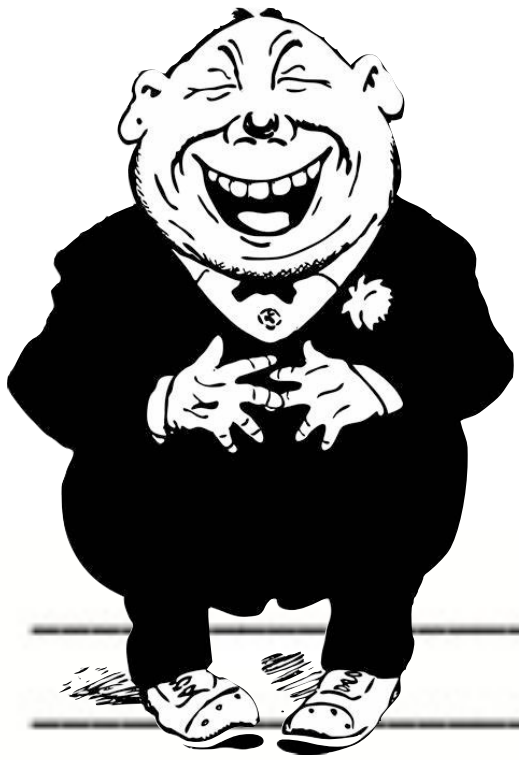
There are no photographs of Abraham Lincoln smiling.

"I was in the right place at the right time, said the right thing, and had a charming smile."
- - Eddie Murphy (actor)

grimace (n.)
a facial expression that indicates pain, or dissatisfaction with something.

What is the power of a smile? Consider and write why smiles influence people?

Princess Asnad of Luxembourg ripped her skintight gown during a nationally televised coronation ceremony. SHe was so embarrassed that she ran off and joined a convent (became a nun) Two weeks later, here younger sister we crowned queen.



"One loses many laughs by not laughing at onself."
- - Sarah Jeanette Duncan

mortify (v.) embarrass

Describe (or make up a story about) a time when you were so embarrassed you wanted to run away from life.

To Teach is to learn.
- - Japanese Proverb

Insect trainer Felicity Whitman trained a swarm of bees to land on her head in the shape of a hat.

en masse (adj.)
French for
together as a group

Describe a time when you learned something by teaching it.

"Life itself is a proper binge." - - Julia Child

binge (n.)
fling, spree, bash or festival (usually refers to food, drink, watching TV, or playing games.

Candy Crunch is breakfast cereal that consists of marshmallow bits covered with frosting and sprinkled with powdered sugar. It has no viatins or minerals.

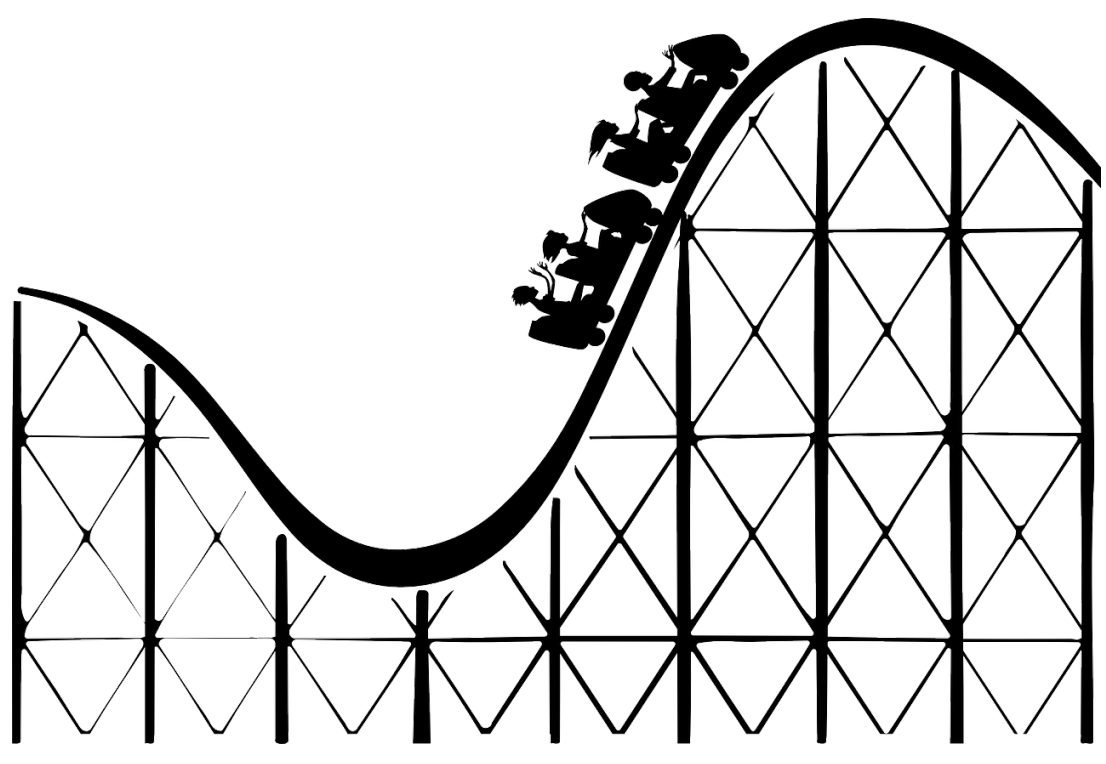
Plan and write a menu for a 24 hour binge, eating as much as you want of any three things (but only three).

"The opportunities are still there."
- - Walt Disney

The word ***paradise*** was originally the Persian word for a royal amusement park.

If you like rollercoasters, you're a **philobat** (n.)
If you dont, you're an **ocnophil** (n.)

Design and draw your own thrilling and exciting amusement park ride.



Although he graduated 64th in his high school class of 112, John F. Kennedy was voted "most likely to succeed".

"A BMW can't take you as far as a diploma." - - Joyce A. Mayers

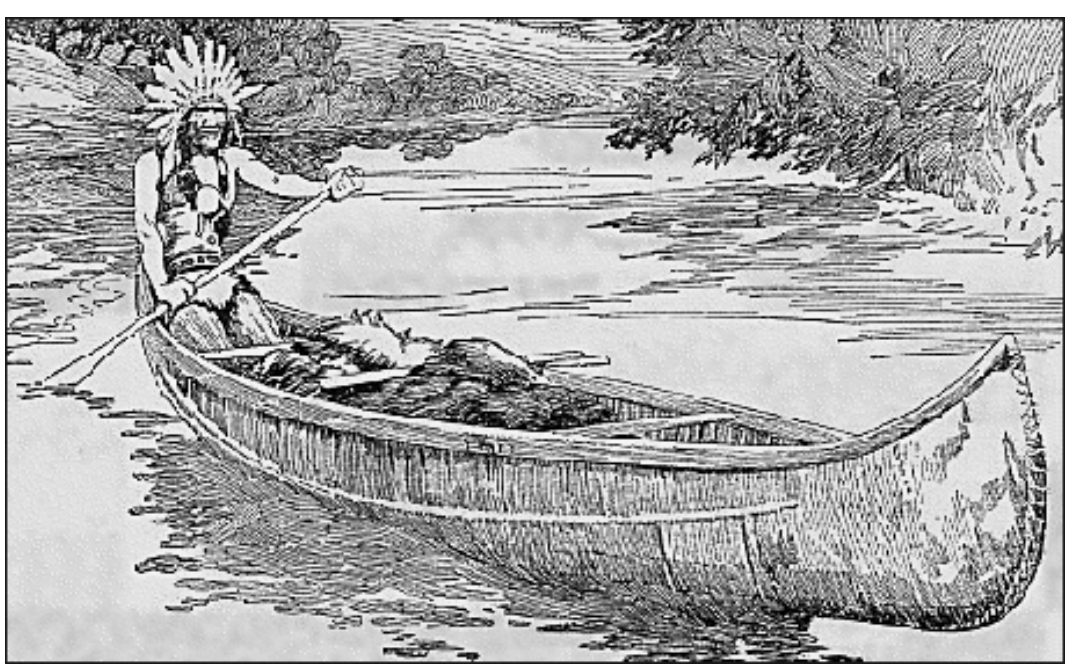
matriculation (n.)
graduation

List five reasons people <u>do</u> get diplomas, plus five reasons people <u>don't</u>.

The stereotypical Native American greeting "How" is a Hollywood corruption of the traditional greeting "A-Hah" meaning "peace be with you." or "all is well."

"You must know the story of your culture and be proud of your ancestors." - - Romana Bauelos

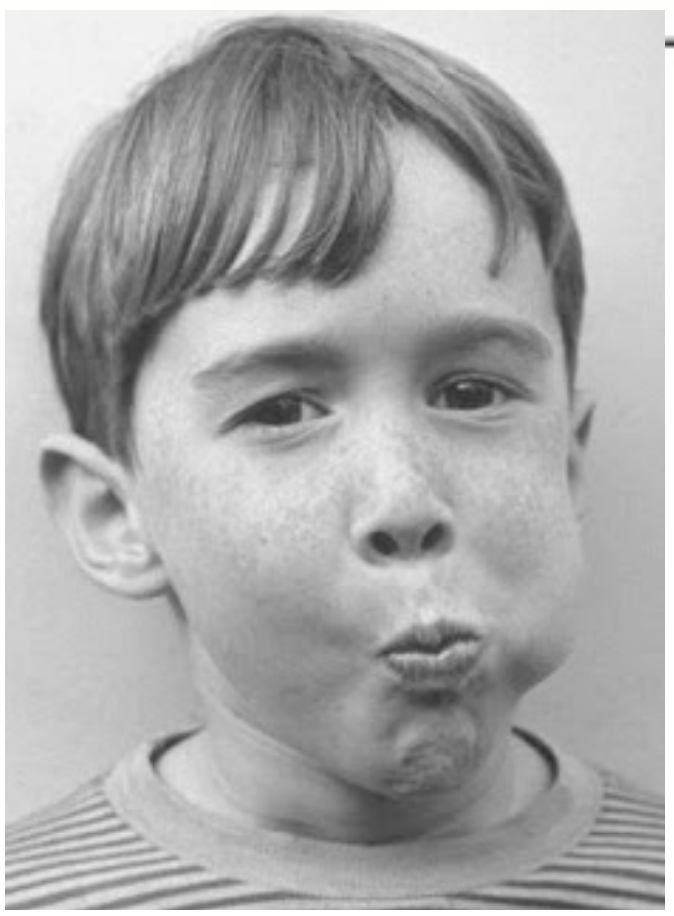
stereotype (n.) an oversimplified belief, seldom based on facts.



List and describe six elements of the unique and modern culture of the United States i.e. music, art, food, clothing styles, movies, media etc.

"This will never be a civilized country until we spend more money for books than we do for chewing gum." --Elbert Hubbard

The Market Theater Gum Wall is a brick wall covered in used chewing gum, in an alleyway in downtown Seattle. It is similar to Bubblegum Alley in San Luis Obispo, California - both can be covered in gum several inches deep!



manducate (v.)
gobble, ingest,
devour, eat

Make a list of ten clever uses for a piece of used chewing gum. (i.e. fix a hole in a leaky roof).

"Sometimes bad luck hits you like in an ancient Greek tragedy, and it's not your own making."
- - Werner Herzog

In the sixth century B.C., Thucydides said, "A collison at sea can ruin your entire day."

catastrophe (n.)
disaster, tragedy

What sort of thing can ruin your day? Why?

The 1882 Detroit Wolverines baseball team wore jerseys and caps that identified their positions: first base, red and white stripes; pitcher sky blue; shortstop; brown.

"Putting a bunch of people to work on the same problem doesn't make them a team." - - Gerald M. Weinberg

pandemonium (n.) wild uproar, noise, racket or mayhem

Working with one other person, respond to this question: What do you like/dislike about working with other people?

Ninety-eight percent of ***us*** use toilet tissue, the supermarket's best selling product.

"Making movies is better than cleaning toilets." -- Bertrand Russell

the: "potty, john, head, little girls room etc."

euphemism (n.) a word or phrase used in place of something unpleasant; a 'nice' way to say someting

Make a list of 10 euphemisms used in everyday life (i.e. died = passed away)

"There is no greenery. It is enough to make a stone sad." - - Nikita Kruschev while on a visit to New York City

floracide (v.) the killing of plants or trees

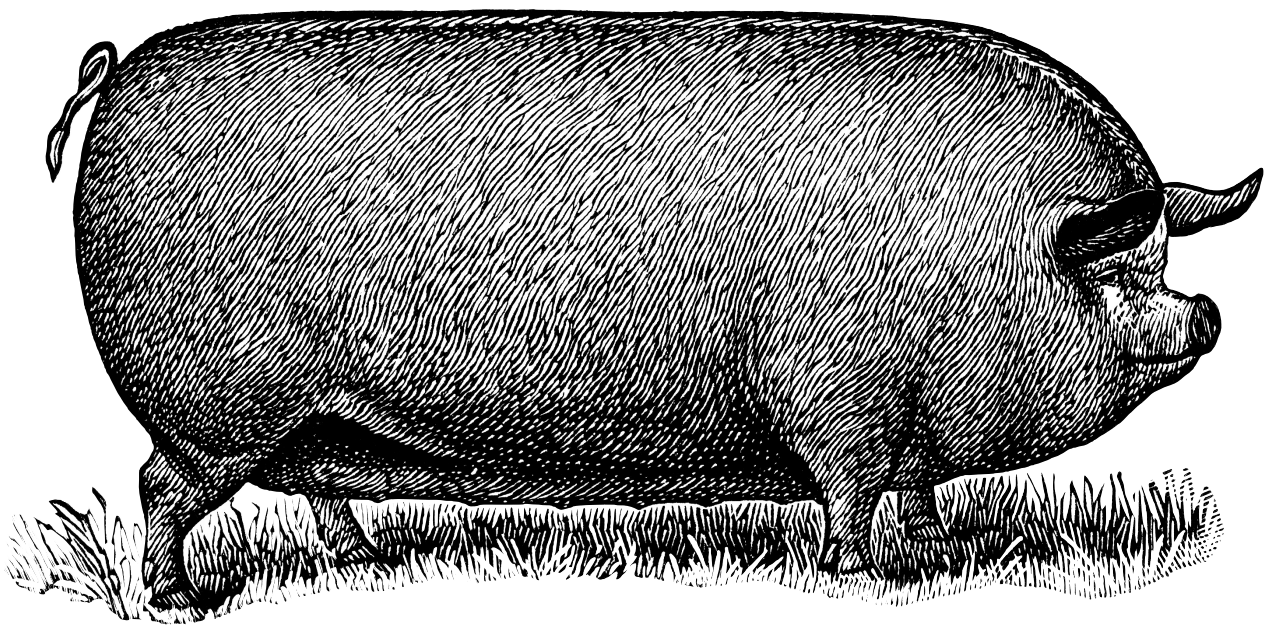
In the seventeenth century, Federick William of Prussia banned peasants from marrying until they planted six trees.

Write and explain three conditions which must be met before people are allowed to marry.

The typical hog has a vocabulary of about 20 words -- well, not words exactly, but tones of oink.

"Don't talk unless you can improve the silence." - - Vermont proverb

polyglot (n.) a person who speaks a number of languages



Write a summary of the **Three Little Pigs** using Pig Latin (Ig-pay Atin-lay)

"I would rather win a convert than an argument." - - Lyndon B Johnson

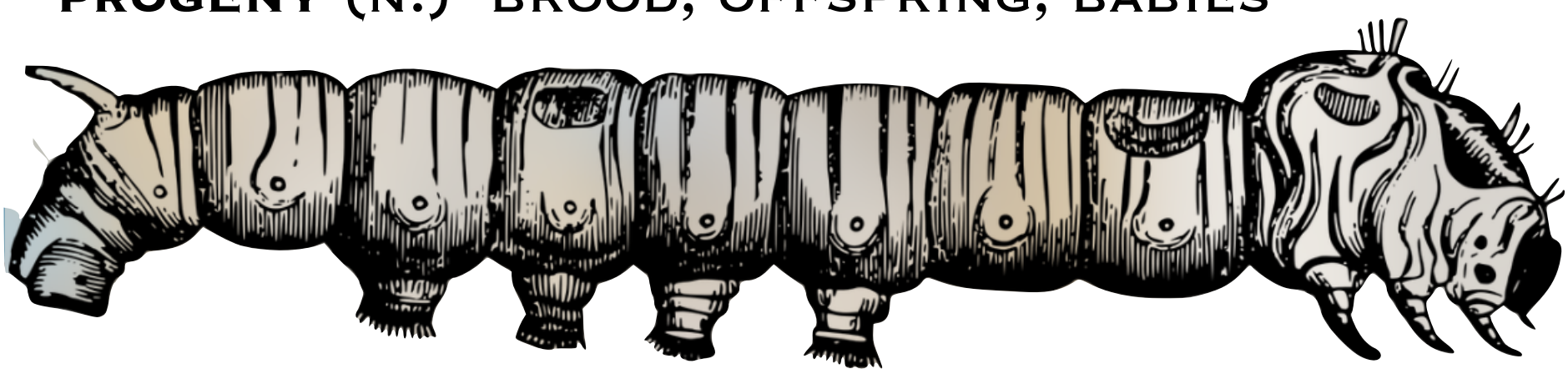
After much deliberation and discussion, Scrappy, Hoppy, Awful, Crabby, Daffy, Busy, Helpful, Snoopy, Thrifty, Flabby, and Dumpy were dropped as potential names for tte dwarfs in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

acquiescence (n.) passive agreement, complying with another's wishes

Get with a partner and agree on names for severn modern dwarfs.

"We hope that when insects take over the world, they will remember with gratitude how we took them along on all of our picnics." - - Bill Vaughn

PROGENY (N.) BROOD, OFFSPRING, BABIES

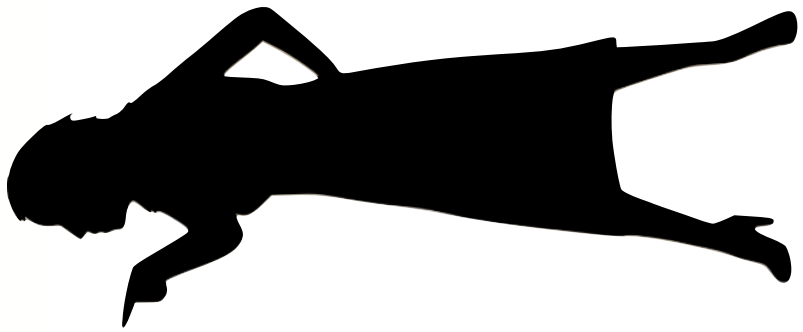


If a pair of flies were allowed to breed uninterrupted thoughout one summer season, their progeny would total three hundred thirty-five million flies.

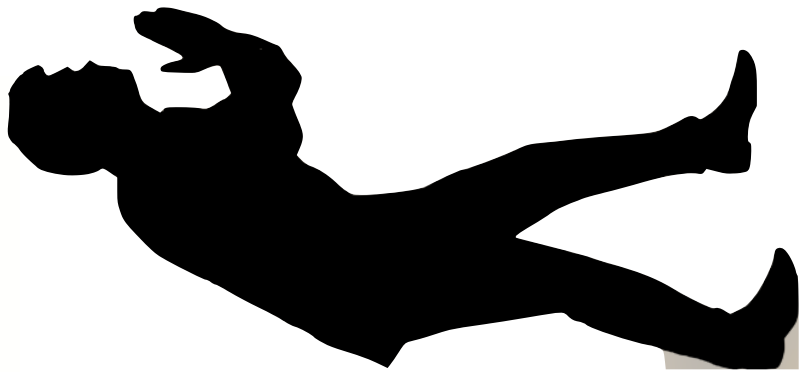
Insects rule the world. Write five rules for human behavior.

“Miserable Margrit”, a Swedish doll, vomited, wet her pants, flailed her arms and legs and always frowned. Pull her wind up string and she would say things like: “shut-up”, “I hate you”, “get lost”, & “I’m telling mommy.”

Spend the next five minutes complaining -in writing- about anything.



querulous (adj.) always complaining, griping or whining



“I think we developed language because of our deep inner need to complain.” - - Jane Wagner

Raw Sewage, a Key West, Florida, punk band, was known for drenching their audiences with buckets of raw sewage while videos of horrible car crashes played behind the band.

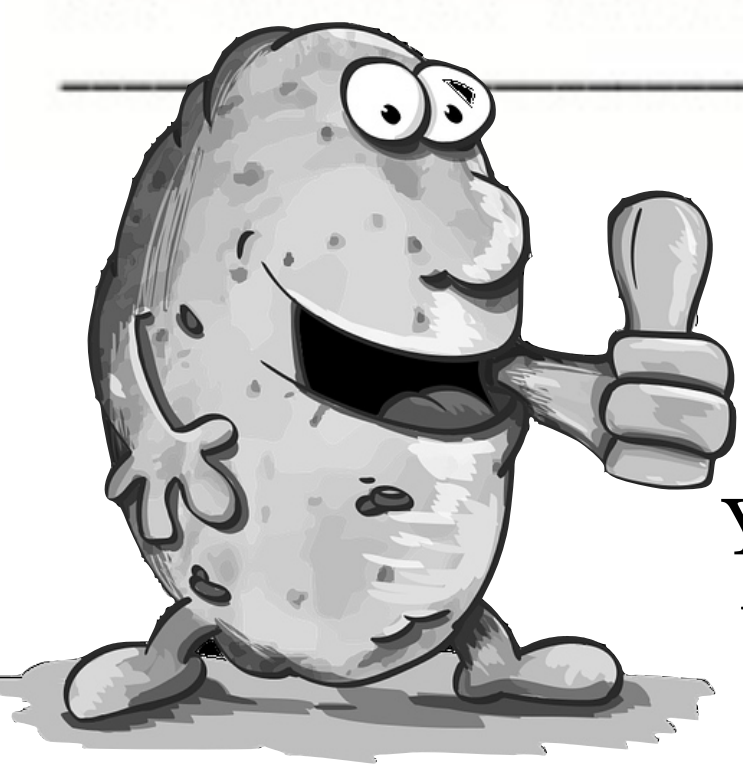
"Rap is poetry set to music. But to me it's like a jackhammer." - - Bette Midler

abhorrent (adj.)
loathsome, repulsive

Using the most revolting terms (school appropriate) describe the kind of music that you find relulsive.

“For me, I'd rather be the inventive one, and if something doesn't work, I'll go back to the workshop, put it on the bench, and pound on it for awhile. -- Janet Fitch

When a man in Idaho found himself in a drafty cabin with a six month supply of potatoes, he mashed them with some butter and plaster and used them to insulate his cabin.



inventive (adj.)
clever, creative,
resourseful, ingenius

You are in a drafty cabin with a huge bag of potatoes, but it’s hot, so you don’t need to insulate with them. Instead, use them to invent a game to amuse yourself.

"People are the only animals who laugh and weep, for they are the only animals who are stunned with the difference between what things are and what they ought to be."
- - William Talbitt

The first ever international dogsled mail race ran from Lewiston, Maine, to Montreal, Canada in 1928. Actually, 540 of the 600 mile distance was run over bare ground.

MICROLIPET (N.) A PERSON WHO IS BOTHERED BY TRIFLES

Describe something that is fairly trivial but really drives you nuts.

It may be those who do most, dream most." - - Stephen Leacock

ONLY ABOUT ONE PERSON IN TWENTY DREAMS IN COLOR.

thaumaturgist(n.)
a worker of wonders, magician, wizard

What extraordinary wonders do you dream about accomplishing?

"No matter how big or warm your bed is, you still have to get out of it. " - - Grace Slick

Ask a doctor to identify the most important piece of furniture in your house and you'll be told -- your bed. Your most important piece of clothing - - your shoes.

diurnation (v.) sleeping during the day instead of the night.

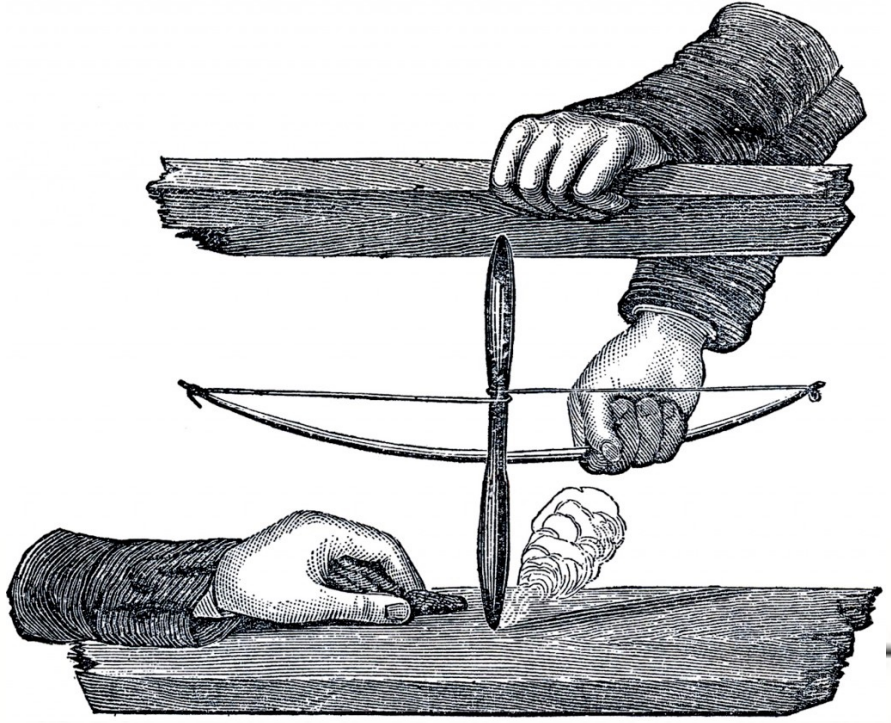
Name and describe your most important pieces of furniture and clothing.

"The good thing about fads is that they fade away."
- - Debra Saunders

transitory
(adj.) brief, temporary, short-term

List five fads from the past and tell why they do or do not need to be revived.

Few people visit the International Lint Museum located in Rutland, Vermont, which features lint from a variety of sources such as clothing pockets, dryer vents and belly buttons.



"If you start throwing hedgehogs under me, I shall throw two porcupines under you."

- - Nikita Khrushchev

U.S. Patent # 560,351 was issued for a corkscrew device that was uprooted to produce dimples in the cheeks of users.

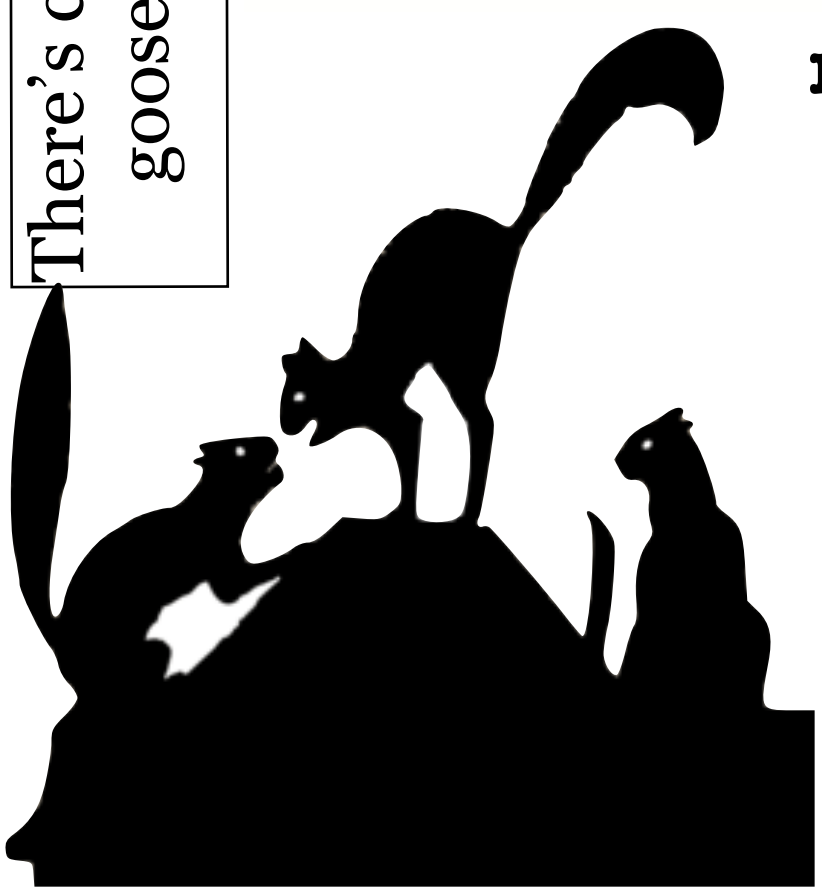
quoz (n.) something strange, ridiculous or absurd

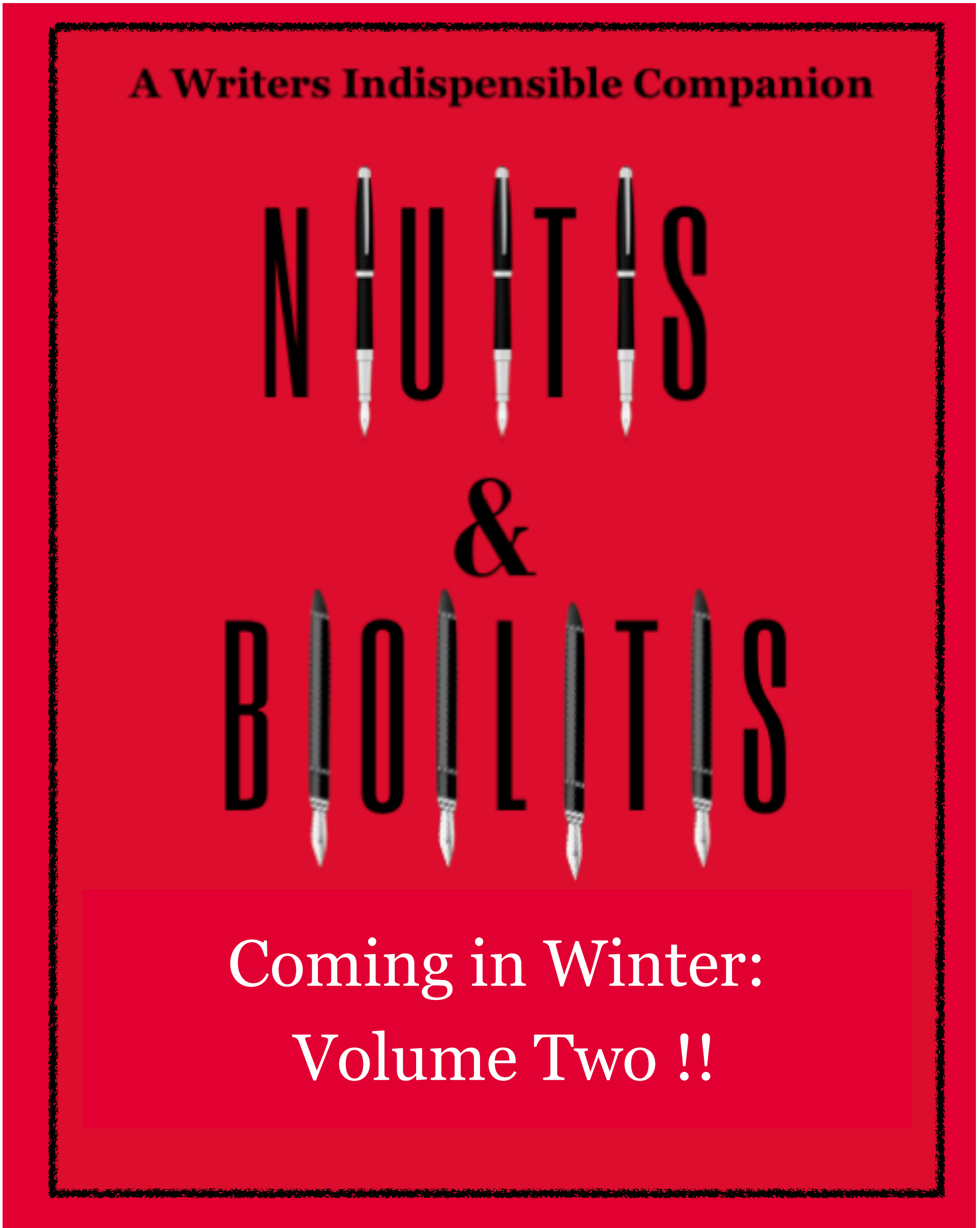
Create a wacky invention. Then draw it or write a detailed description of it.

There's catnip and then there's dognip, a weed called stinking goose foot that smells awful, but makes dogs rapturous.

"Cats gotta scratch. Dogs gotta bite. I gotta write" - - James Elroy

rapturous (adj.) ecstatic, enchanted overjoyed



What do you gotta do?

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